

Libya recalls ambassador in Tunis

TUNIS (R) — Libya's ambassador to Tunisia Jomaa Fezzani has returned home following a decision by Tunisia to recall its ambassador to Tripoli, informed Tunisian sources said Saturday. They said diplomatic usage demanded reciprocity in such cases and Mr. Fezzani's departure could not be interpreted as a worsening of tension between the two countries. President Habib Bourguiba recalled the Tunisian ambassador on May 16 to protest against an alleged anti-Tunisian campaign in the official Libyan media and the kidnapping by Libya of three Tunisian national guards. The press campaign followed Libyan accusations that Tunisia had allowed anti-government rebels involved in a gun battle in Tripoli on May 8 to slip into Libya through Tunisia. Tunisia has denied any involvement and asked for the release of the three guards. Libyan Minister Abdul Salam Tureki promised to have the three men released but they are still being held, informed Tunisian sources said.

مكتبة الأمل

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جوردان تايمز: صحيفة سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية "الراي"

Revitalised Afro-Asian body meets

ALGIERS (AP) — About 100 delegations representing 86 political parties or movements in the Third World open the sixth Congress of the Afro-Asian peoples' Solidarity Organisation (AAPSO) Sunday in the Algerian capital, the first such meeting in 12 years. Algeria took the initiative in trying to resurrect the Moribund organisation, founded in 1957 in Cairo after the historic meeting of Third World leaders in Bandung, Indonesia in 1955 at the beginning of the decolonisation period. The AAPSO was set up as a liaison body between the peoples of Africa and Asia with the goal of promoting economic, cultural and social development. The organisation had not held a Congress since 1972, but the Algerians are hoping to give it a new impetus here. A preparatory session was held in February during which an agenda was set for the elaboration of a "political platform" and a "strategic programme of action" for a re-invigorated AAPSO.

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Injured in Israel bombing

ELAVIV (AP) — A bomb exploded on an Israeli bus Saturday morning, killing two people, Israeli radio reported. The bomb had apparently been planted on the bus after a group of tourists arrived to tour the area of Masada, a southeast of Jerusalem. The bus was returning to the bus station after the tourists had left. The bomb exploded when it opened the door. They were taken to a hospital in Jerusalem by helicopter, the radio said. The bus was being investigated by police.

Killed in Israeli raid near Tyre

IDON, South Lebanon, (AP) — Israeli occupation forces raided a village in Hannouweh, six kilometres southeast of the port city of Tyre, shortly after midnight today, villagers said. Two men were injured during the raid and one of them was taken away by the Israelis, the villagers said. Timor Goksel, a spokesman for the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon, which has troops in the area, said that the Israeli brigade responded with gunfire in Hannouweh and a seriously injured man, who was taken to a hospital in Tyre where he died of a gunshot wound. The man's mother was taken for shock, Mr. Goksel said.

Berri expects parliament approval for new cabinet

BEIRUT (AP) — Shi'ite Muslim leader Nabih Berri told a news conference Saturday that he expects the nation's new government to win a vote of confidence from parliament, possibly as early as this week. "They have a habit of saying 'yes'," he said when asked about the impending vote. He said a vote "possibly" could come tomorrow. Prime Minister Rashid Karami selected nine Muslims and Christians last April 30 to join him in a new "national unity" cabinet. He ministers since have met several times under President Amin Gemayel to develop their policy paper. Under the Lebanese constitution the policy statement must be in parliamentary approval before the government is formally in place.

Saudi journalist blames U.S. for tanker attacks

YADH (AP) — A prominent Saudi Arabian political commentator contended Saturday that the United States that spurred Iran to attack Saudi Arabian oil tankers in the Gulf waters. Writing in Al Okaz newspaper, Aziz Dia said the Americans agreed with the Iranians on their adventure "against tankers so that the ground could be paved for U.S. military intervention in the oil-rich region." Dia said the American decision was taken when U.S. presidential envoy Richard Murphy turned "empty handed" from the region on a recent tour. The U.S. secretary of state for Eastern affairs had been pressing U.S. readiness to defend the Gulf against Iran.

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PLO leader unveils Gulf peace initiative in Jeddah

Arafat arrives, begins official talks with King

By Lamis K. Andoni
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat arrived Saturday and was having intensive discussions with His Majesty King Hussein on joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts to solve the Middle East problem.

The meeting, which included a working dinner, was continuing late into the night and was attended by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat, Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Suleiman Arar, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud. The Palestinian team to the talks was headed by Mr. Arafat, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Deputy commander of PLO forces Khalil Al Wazir, PLO Executive Committee member Abdul Rahim Ahmad and PLO Executive Committee representative in Amman Brigadier Abdul Razak Al Yahya. Speaking to reporters upon his arrival at Marka airport, Mr. Arafat said his talks with King Hussein would cover joint Jordanian-Palestinian efforts towards convening an international conference on peace in the Middle East with the participation of the five permanent members of the U.N. Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The U.S. and Israel have rejected the idea of an international conference on the Middle East and France has shown unwillingness to attend. However, the U.S. and Israeli attitude and the French unwillingness have not discouraged the King and the PLO chairman from launching an international campaign aimed at securing world support for the proposed conference. Asked whether Jordan and the PLO plan to dispatch joint delegations to European capitals to canvas support for efforts to solve the Palestinian problem, Mr. Arafat said Saturday: "There is a complete co-ordination between Jordan and the PLO on political moves." He did not elaborate.

PLO bid for Gulf peace

The PLO chairman, who flew in from Saudi Arabia after attending a meeting of a seven-member Islamic committee which seeks to end the 44-month-old Gulf war between Iran and Iraq, was earlier reported to have submitted a new PLO initiative to end the Gulf conflict to the meeting. The committee, formed by the Jeddah-based Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC), and which groups Guinea, Senegal, Bangladesh, Turkey, Gambia, Malaysia, Pakistan and the OIC secretary general, is expected to hold a meeting in Saudi Arabia in the first week of June, Mr. Arafat said.

Reports from Jeddah said that the new PLO initiative was expected to go before the peace committee during its forthcoming meeting. No further details were available on the reported initiative.

The Associated Press, however, said Mr. Arafat egestions the PLO proposal for peace between Iran and Iraq during his meeting in Jeddah Saturday with representatives of the heads of state of the OIC peace committee members. The initiative was worked out after Mr. Arafat's meeting with King Fahd of Saudi Arabia last week, the agency said, and the prime objective of the PLO leader's recent tour of the Gulf Arab countries was to seek support for the proposal.

Addressing the Islamic committee in Jeddah earlier Saturday, Mr. Arafat said the Iran-Iraq war "threatened the entire Muslim World with a catastrophe." Saturday's meeting was a preparatory one to pave way for committee's forthcoming full-scale meeting which will be attended by the heads of state of the peace committee.

PLO-Syrian relations

The PLO leader seemed careful in choosing his words when asked the comment on the organisation's relations with Syria and Egypt. He surprised reporters when he said "mediation efforts" between

Syria and PLO have "made some progress," contrary to last week's statements by officials of Fateh, the mainstream commando movement within the PLO, that an Algerian effort to reconcile Fateh and Damascus has apparently failed and was "not significant any more."

Commenting on the PLO's relations with Egypt, which has been ostracised by the Arab World after Cairo signed a separate peace treaty with Israel in 1979, in the light of his visit and reconciliation meeting with President Hosni Mubarak last December, Mr. Arafat stressed that the organisation's relations with Cairo are based on resolutions adopted by the Palestine National Council (PNC), the Palestinian parliament in exile.

The PNC resolution on the PLO's relations with Egypt states that the closeness of the organisation with Egypt would be determined on Cairo's departure from its American-sponsored Camp David accord with Israel.

Mr. Arafat was referring to the same PNC resolution which some radical factions of the PLO have accused him of violating by his visit to Cairo and meeting with Mr. Mubarak.

The PLO leader, in an apparent reference to the accusation, said Saturday that he was satisfied with Mr. Mubarak's policies on the Palestinian question.

Immediately after arriving in Amman, Mr. Arafat chaired a meeting of the Palestine National Fund (PNF) which started a three-day meeting on Saturday.

Cabinet forms team to study proposal to establish London bank

AMMAN (J.T.) — The cabinet has decided to set up a ministerial committee to look into a proposal to establish a British bank in London, owned by a Jordanian consortium, Petra, the Jordanian News Agency, said Saturday.

The decision was taken to examine the legal and financial aspects of the project which would have involved an agreement between the government, represented by the Central Bank, and a number of Jordanian commercial banks and institutions to establish the bank, according to officials.

The sticking point in the proposal has been whether the Central Bank could contribute to the paid-up capital of the envisaged bank (originally said to be 20 per cent) and whether another major Jordanian financial institution, the Housing Bank, could also contribute another 15 per cent of the capital, the officials said.

The ministerial committee that has been formed by the cabinet includes Minister of Transport Taher Hikmat, Minister of Finance Hanna Odeh, Minister of Labour Tayseer Abdul Jabbar and Central Bank Governor Mohammad Sa'id Al Nabulsi. The committee was asked to submit its recommendations to the cabinet as soon as possible, Petra said.

Mauritanian, Somali ministers arrive

AMMAN (Petra) — The Mauritanian and Somali ministers of mineral resources arrived here Saturday evening for talks with the Arab Mining Company (Armico) on mining projects. Armico holds shares in the capital of an iron project in Mauritania and a copper mining project in Somalia. The two ministers were met by senior Armico officials.



Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat talks to the press in Amman upon arrival from Saudi Arabia Saturday as Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri (to Mr. Arafat's left), PLO Deputy Military Commander Khalil Al Wazir (to Mr. Masri's left) and Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud (to Mr. Arafat's right) look on (Petra photo)

Khaddam, Fahd discuss ways to contain Gulf war

BAHRAIN (Agencies) — King Fahd of Saudi Arabia held talks in Jeddah Saturday with Syrian Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam, believed to be aimed at keeping the Iran-Iraq war from spreading to other countries.

The official Saudi Press Agency announced the talks without giving details. But Mr. Khaddam is widely reported to be trying to prevent an expansion of the Gulf war after recent attacks on oil tankers and other merchant vessels in the Gulf.

Also present at the Fahd-Khaddam meeting were Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara'a, Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdullah and the Saudi foreign and defence ministers, the agency said.

Syria's official news agency SANA reported in Damascus that Mr. Khaddam, who visited Tehran earlier this week, was carrying a message from Syrian President Hafez Al Assad to King Fahd on "Syria's efforts to de-escalate tension in the Gulf and prevent expansion of the Gulf war."

Syria is one of the few Arab countries which supports non-Arab Iran rather than Arab Iraq in the Gulf war. Saudi Arabia, whose moderate stance plays an influential role in the Arab World, has supported Iraq.

'U.S. closer to sending Stingers to S. Arabia'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The administration of U.S. President Ronald Reagan on Friday moved closer to agreeing on sending 200 Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia, the Washington Post reported in Saturday editions.

The missiles would be used by the Saudis to defend against a possible Iranian air attack in the escalating violence in the Gulf region stemming from the nearly four-year-old war between Iran and Iraq. Mr. Reagan and his key advisers met at the White House to discuss the Gulf developments, and Saudi Ambassador Bandar Ibn Sultan later had separate meetings with U.S. government officials, the Post said.

Mr. Reagan has vowed to "do what is necessary" to keep open the Gulf's vital Strait of Hormuz. The New York Times, meanwhile, reported Saturday that Mr. Reagan gave tentative approval for sending 200 Stinger missiles to the Saudis. The Times, however, said Mr. Reagan probably will hold off on seeking congressional approval for 1,000 additional Stinger missiles sought by Saudi Arabia.

The Times said State and Defence Department officials briefed members of Congress on the plans and found sharp criticism. "Some staff were critical of the whole Stinger sale," a State Department official was quoted as saying by the Times. "They said if it is really an emergency, why not lease the Stingers and then take them home when the crisis is over."

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The shallow waters close to the Saudi coast would be only one of a host of navigation problems faced by ships moving closer to the shore, shipping experts said. They would also have to negotiate a hazardous network of oil pipelines, drilling rigs and oil loading terminals.

The routes would also cross shipping channels at the entrance to Ras Tannurah, Saudi Arabia's main oil port and the largest oil export terminal in the world, and

the recent spate of attacks on Saudi and Kuwaiti oil tankers well outside the war zone, for which the Gulf states have blamed Iran, has added a new dimension to the conflict by threatening to involve the Gulf Arab states in direct confrontation with Tehran for the first time.

The Syrians indicated that their bid was successful. But Arab diplomatic sources noted that Mr. Khaddam's talks in Tehran produced no tangible results, in view of the continuing raids by Iran on vessels near the Saudi territorial waters, the Associated Press said.

Mr. Khaddam said in a statement in Tehran on Thursday that Iranian leaders shared Syria's views that restraint should be shown in the Gulf to avert expansion of the war. He implied that the Iranians had agreed to stop attacking foreign tankers provided that Iraq did likewise.

But a few hours after Mr. Khaddam's statement, Iraq announced its jets struck anew at oil tankers off Iran's Kharg terminal, and Iranian warplanes staged retaliatory raids. Iraq later claimed its jets struck more targets.

The Syrian envoys' trip to Tehran, where they had intensive talks on the crisis with top Iranian officials including President Ali Khamenei, came after King Fahd sent the deputy commander of his National Guard to Damascus with

discuss the Gulf developments, and Saudi Ambassador Bandar Ibn Sultan later had separate meetings with U.S. government officials, the Post said.

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the industrial port city of Jubail further north. Other ways of defending tankers in the Gulf have severe limitations, the shipping sources said. Shipping experts said efficient air cover for slow-moving tankers is difficult to maintain against a determined attacker.

Saudi Arabia's air force, which includes 42 new U.S.-built F-15 fighters, is more than a match for the Iranian F-4 Phantoms which have carried out the ship attacks. A convoy system to protect tankers would also have political and practical drawbacks, since Gulf countries have nowhere near the naval strength to provide the necessary cover themselves. It would thus draw into the conflict foreign navies which would themselves be vulnerable to attack because the Gulf is so small and which could not provide the protection necessary to safeguard every tanker moving into the waterway.

Hours before the two Syrian envoys' departure for Jeddah an official Syrian spokesman accused Iraq of sabotaging Damascus' efforts to defuse the crisis and of trying to draw other countries in the conflict. "By stepping up its attacks on tankers and shipping in the Gulf, the Iraqi regime aims at sabotaging Syrian efforts to defuse tension and prevent the expansion of the war to safeguard shipping in the Gulf," the spokesman said.

Insurance rates soar as Gulf shipping attacks continue; U.S. says Gulf war may spread, page 2

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Arabs urge U.N. to stop Iranian attack on ships

UNITED NATIONS (USIA) — Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and Qatar told the Security Council May 25 that it must act firmly and decisively to get Iran to end its attacks on ships from countries not involved in the Iran-Iraq war in the Gulf.

Failure to do so, they said, would escalate the war and possibly draw others into the fighting — an alternative no one wants.

In the strongest statement during the first session of the council, Saudi Ambassador Samir Shihabi said that Saudi Arabia was surprised at the extent of Iran's misconception of the Gulf situation in attacking Saudi and Kuwaiti tankers inside territorial waters and in international waters.

Mr. Shihabi urged the council to adopt the resolution drawn up by the six members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) — Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates — dealing with Iran's ship interlocking with and attacking ships en route to and from states that are not party to the war. If Iran does not stop, he said, the council should be prepared to

impose sanctions.

"Can the world accept that Iran should carry its aggression into three countries which are not in a state of war with it?" Mr. Shihabi asked. "If the world accepts this logic, we shall open the door to international irresponsibility and thus undermine the basic principles and values of the United Nations... and return to the law of the jungle."

The Gulf, he said, in addition to being an extension of the territorial waters of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the other members of the GCC, is one of the most sensitive areas in the world. Interaction between political and economic factors affect the vital interest of a large number of countries.

The GCC member states will not spare any effort in preserving the Gulf as an area of stability no matter what this may cost.

The Iranian attacks were a calculated, unwarranted, and in-

entional operation to threaten and to intimidate the Gulf countries, the Saudi ambassador said.

Iran is boycotting the session, Iranian Ambassador Said Rajae-Koransani told a press conference here because the Security Council is only working in Iraq's interests. The Gulf states have been "feeding the Iraqi war machine and have not refrained from helping escalate the war" so the Gulf states cannot expect to feel immune or secure, he said.

Kuwait Deputy Prime Minister Sabah Al Ahmad Al Jaber Al Sabah also told the council that Iran's aggression dragging other nations into the dispute could lead to direct confrontation which we do not want.

The resolution currently being considered by the council reaffirms the right of free navigation and "strongly condemns" Iran for its attacks on shipping and from the ports of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Some members of the council, however, feel that the resolution is too one-sided and are negotiating to include wording mentioning Iraq. The next meeting is set for May 29.

Israelis confiscate Palestinian flags

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank Saturday confiscated Palestinian flags, posters and publications from an exhibit at Hebron's Islamic College, state radio reported.

The exhibit was organized by the college student council, whose members were called in for interrogation by authorities, the radio said.

The report claimed the seized publications called for violence against Israel.

Thai foreign minister arrives in Cairo

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Thai Foreign Minister Suddh Savetisla arrived here Friday on a four-day visit for talks with Egyptian officials on promoting bilateral relations, the Middle East News Agency reported.

Mr. Savetisla told airport reporters that his talks here will deal with "all problems and issues of concern to the two countries," the agency said.

Within this context, the agency said, Mr. Savetisla referred to his country's stand in condemning Israeli occupation of Arab territories, Thailand's call for Israeli troops withdrawal from these lands and the restoration of Palestinian rights including self-determination.

The Thai minister also expressed support for current peace efforts to end the Gulf war, the agency added.

Mr. Omar Shafie, assistant foreign minister, was at the airport to greet the visitor.

He will go to Kenya and Tanzania after concluding his visit here.

CAEU opens meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Council of Economic Unity (CAEU) countries, Jordan, Syria, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates, Sudan, Kuwait, Libya, Palestine Liberation Organization and North and South Yemen opened a meeting here Saturday to discuss the secretary-general's report on the follow-up of previous sessions as well as the CAEU general secretary's activities for the last six months.

Addressing the opening session, the CAEU Secretary-General Mahdi Al Obeidi said the general secretariat has made every effort to carry out the CAEU's decisions, and in dealing with the economic problems facing the Arab World.

U.S. sees serious threat of widening Gulf war

WASHINGTON (R) — Reports that Iran may attack Saudi Arabian oil fields and send suicide planes against oil tankers in the Gulf are "very serious," U.S. Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger said Friday.

He said in a television interview that the Reagan administration would discuss sending shoulder-launched Stinger anti-aircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia which could be used to defend ships in the Gulf.

Mr. Weinberger said reports that Iran is planning to widen the Gulf war should be seriously regarded.

"I think it's very serious," he said. "Iran has for all intents and purposes been in a state of extreme hostility to the United States for over four years."

"I think it's extremely serious in the sense that the Iranian government is run by people who are totally unpredictable, and that's the nicest way to put it," he said.

"They may take action at any time that would be regarded by almost anyone as totally irrational."

"We could not stand by and see the Gulf closed," Mr. Weinberger said. However, he emphasized that U.S. intervention would not be in the form of American troops and that any action would be taken only on "formal request" of friendly Gulf nations.

He reiterated President Reagan's vow to keep the Gulf's oil

routes open. "That's very clear," he noted.

In the Gulf, "a multi-national force under U.N. direction" might be considered, according to Mr. Weinberger, in addition to "sanctions" or a United Nations Resolution.

A multi-national force "could have considerable effect," he said.

Mr. Weinberger confirmed that President Reagan is considering the sale of Stinger portable anti-aircraft missiles to Saudi Arabia. Administration officials said 200 Stingers would be shipped immediately, with 1,000 more to be sent later if Congress approved.

The Stinger is the U.S. army's standard, shoulder-fired infantry surface-to-air weapon. With an infra-red homing system, it can shoot down planes within a range of 5.5 kilometers and could be used by Saudi forces aboard tankers and to shield oil

Iran and Iraq have so far claimed to have hit some 27 ships, mainly oil tankers, sailing through the Gulf.

The New York Times quoted intelligence analysis saying that Iran might launch a major ground attack against Iraq during Ramadan, the Muslim month of dawn-to-dusk fasting that starts on June 1. Iranian forces totalling hundreds of thousands have been massed on the border, it said.

Kuwait takes precaution against sabotage suspects

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's security authorities have been bracing to combat sabotage and fend off external attacks, the under-secretary for the interior was quoted Saturday as saying.

Gen. Yousef Al Khorafi told the newspaper Al Jabas that an average of 200 persons a month have been deported "because we feel they are a threat to security and society."

He said the deportees were suspects who belong to unauthorized religious parties, apparently referring to pro-Iranian expatriate workers here.

"We are taking all precautions to confront all eventualities," he said. "Entry regulations for visitors have been tightened, while undesired and unemployed persons are being deported."

Oil companies operating here meanwhile issued instructions to dependents of their workers to stay at least one kilometre away from offshore oil installations.

The instructions by the Kuwait Oil Company and the Arabian Oil Company (Japan) insisted that people avoid marine oil locations when they sail in boats on weekends.

Company sources said the instructions were an apparent precaution against possible Iranian attacks on Kuwaiti installations.

Gen. Khorafi said the deportations have been conducted since last December, were pro-Iranian terrorists staged a wave of

bomb attacks against six local targets, including the U.S. and French embassies.

A total of 25 persons were arrested and tried on charges of mounting the bomb attacks. Six of them were sentenced to death by hanging and the rest to long term jail sentences.

Two of these convicts were at large when the sentences were handed down against them last March. Gen. Khorafi told Al Jabas that these two were recently arrested. He refused to give details.

Kuwait and Saudi Arabia have been co-ordinating military precautions to deter Iran, which in recent weeks sent its warplanes attacking oil tankers of the two countries in neutral waters along the lower Gulf region.

U.S. buys Israeli aircraft

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Secretary of Defence Caspar W. Weinberger disclosed that the United States Navy had bought small, remote-controlled pilotless aircraft from Israel.

He also disclosed that the United States had accepted Israeli offers of military medical assistance in at least two cases. One was that of an injured Marine Corps guard in Tel Aviv, the other the pregnant wife of an Air Force sergeant in Turkey.

Egyptians vote for parliament today

CAIRO (R) — Egypt chooses a new People's Assembly Sunday with the government pledging the first free elections for 60 years.

But opponents allege that a complex electoral system is so heavily weighted against them that there is no need for the government to rig the polls.

Five parties are contesting the polls for a new 448-seat parliament after a campaign highlighted by a challenge to President Hosni Mubarak's ruling National Democratic Party (NDP) by the New Wafd, a revival of a rightist nationalist party formed in 1919 and now allied with the Muslim Brothers.

Mr. Mubarak, NDP chairman, has pledged: "We are going to hold free, sincere and honest election... unprecedented in Egypt for the past 60 years."

But opposition leaders, including the Wafd's Foad Serageldin, 75, lambasted a new system of proportional representation that requires the 13 million registered voters to vote for party lists instead of individual candidates.

The system, which the opposition says is tailored to ensure an NDP victory, also stipulates that any party failing to get eight per cent of the overall national vote cannot take up any seats it may have won in individual constituencies.

Mr. Serageldin told Reuters: "If elections represent the free will of the people, the Wafd will win not less than 60 per cent of the vote."

Independent commentators question that. Meanwhile, whether the system is fair or not, they predict that the combined opposition will not manage more than 100 of the 448 seats.

Still, that will be the biggest and most vocal opposition in Egypt since the 1952 revolution overthrew the monarchy and swept the late Gamal Abdel Nasser to power.

Diplomats say that, by sanctioning a measure of democracy, Mr. Mubarak may find that he has complicated his task in the post-election period when he has to contend with the basic issue in modern Egypt.

He must try to meet demands for a better life among his 47 million people levied on an economy burdened by low worker productivity and a high birth rate that he himself calls "terrifying."

The NDP claims to inherit the leadership of Nasser's 1952 revolution and campaigned on the basis of a \$42 billion development plan designed to make the economy grow by eight per cent a year.

The five parties have made impassioned appeals to voters to shake off traditional cynicism and apathy about elections in Egypt and get out to vote during the nine hours when polling booths will be open Sunday.

Mr. Mubarak's presidency is not at stake unless opponents gain more than a third of the assembly seats, thus threatening his ability to gain the two-thirds majority in parliament needed to stand for a second term.

City streets were festooned with banners Saturday. Slogans ranged from the ruling party's "vote for security and stability, say no to reactionaries" to the leftist unionist progressives' outspoken "say no to corruption, in thieves and emergency laws."

The Wafd's alliance with the Muslim Brothers, banned by former President Nasser, angered some Wafdist among the Coptic Christians.

In constituencies where the Muslim Brothers are strong, tee-shirts bearing the slogan "Islam is the solution" could be seen Saturday. Candidates called for implementing Sharia (Islamic law) and followers chanted "NDP the atheist party."

Mr. Serageldin defended a decision to let 16 brothers stand on the Wafd ticket. He told Reuters: "There is a difference between a state governed by religion and an Iran-style state run by clergy men, which both us and the Brotherhood oppose."

A ruling party candidate who is a well-known soccer fan handed out stickers showing him pictured with some of the nation's football heroes.

Israel would have used an atomic bomb against Egypt in the October 1973 Middle East war if the military situation had threatened the Jewish state.

Mr. Fahmi criticised the United States for withholding supplies of Stinger ground-to-air missiles to Saudi Arabia, arguing that these weapons were "merely required for defence" of the kingdom against the escalating menace of the Iraq-Iran war.

Israel holds 33 atomic bombs, for ner Egyptian minister says

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — A former Egyptian foreign minister was quoted here Saturday as claiming that Israel possesses 33 atomic bombs.

Mr. Ismail Fahmi, foreign minister in Egypt from 1973 to 1977, told the newspaper Al Riyadh that Israel was producing nuclear bombs at the rate of two a year, allegedly in co-operation with South Africa.

Mr. Fahmi contended that Is-

Insurance rates soar as attacks on ships continue in Gulf war

LONDON (AP) — A new claim of an Iraqi attack on shipping in the Gulf on Friday sent oil tanker insurance rates up 150 per cent and the Saudi oil minister said he was worried that the West "might panic" and that the Gulf oil route would close for lack of insurance.

But a leading underwriter at Lloyd's of London, Mr. Stephen Merritt, told a hastily called news conference at the insurance syndicate's headquarters that the company was not likely to cancel existing coverage or refuse to insure vessels calling at Gulf ports.

"There is no practical possibility of insurance being unavailable at terms and from Gulf ports," he said.

Lloyd's raised premiums for voyages to Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal soon after an Iraqi military statement was broadcast on Baghdad Radio claiming that Iraqi jets and warships had attacked a convoy near the Iranian

coast and destroyed six ships. Two other ships were destroyed by mines, the broadcast said.

Iranian jets also were in action Thursday, bombarding a Liberian-registered cargo ship. The Iranian action was confirmed in London by Lloyd's shipping intelligence, a unit which collects information on worldwide shipping casualties.

The unit had no confirmation of Iraqi attacks on Thursday or Friday, spokesman Roger Lowes said.

The new premiums were 7½ per cent of the value of a ship to cover a week's voyage to Kharg, up from three per cent. The previous rate was four times higher than Lloyd's premium several months ago when the Gulf war was quieter.

Premiums to insure cargoes remained steady, and other rates for Gulf voyages also were unchanged, though Mr. Merritt confirmed that insurers imposed war risk premiums this week on coverage of some ports just outside the Gulf.

In Geneva, Saudi Oil Minister Sheikh Ahmad Zaki Yamani said his country had opened talks with its insurers to deal with a possible cut off of insurance.

"What we're afraid of is that Lloyd's might cancel insurance for navigation in the Gulf, and this is equal to closing the Strait of Hormuz," Sheikh Yamani told 600 business men at a luncheon. He warned that the result of oil cut-off could cripple the economy recovery in the United States and Western Europe, Japan also dep-

ends on oil from the Gulf.

"What we're afraid of is that you (the West) might panic, which is natural," he said.

Mr. Merritt said the latest premium increase was "surprisingly moderate" given the number of ships attacked. He said that Lloyd's had paid out "in the order of £100 million" in claims of war damage to ships.

That figure did not include Ja nages in the last three weeks because those had not been assessed yet.

Mr. Merritt estimated that 30 to 40 ships have been hit in the Gulf this year including those in the off-raided area of the Iranian port of Bandar Khomeini. He said 10 to 12 ships have been hit in the past three weeks, excluding the Bandar Khomeini zone at the head of the Gulf.

He cited the possibility of attacks in the Gulf of Oman ports of the United Arab Emirates and Oman, where ships have been collecting and waiting to enter the Gulf.

A typical large tanker now would pay \$4 million for a one-week trip in the Gulf to an Iranian oil terminal, compared with \$500,000 six months ago.

Traffic in the Gulf "has slackened significantly," Mr. Merritt said in an earlier British Broadcasting Corp. interview.

Asked whether there was an effect of high insurance rates, he said: "We think that's much less due to the impact of insurance premiums than the proper concern for the owners for the safety of their vessels and crews."

Austrian minister leaves for Tehran

VIENNA (AP) — Austrian Foreign Minister Erwin Lang left Saturday for a two-day official visit to Iran at the invitation of Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati. He is the first Western European foreign minister to visit Tehran after the revolution.

TV & RADIO	
JORDAN TELEVISION	BBC WORLD SERVICE 634, 720, 1413 KHz
MAIN CHANNEL	06:00 Newsweek 06:30 Football Highlights 06:45 News 07:00 World News 07:00 British Press Review 07:15 Letterbox 07:30 Music For a While 07:45 Letter from America 08:00 Newsweek 08:30 Jazz for the Asking 09:00 World News 09:00 News About Britain 09:15 From Our Own Correspondent 09:30 The Mummy and Perseus 10:00 HVS Bounty 10:50 Recording of the Week 11:00 World News 11:09 Reflections 11:15 The Pleasure's Yours 11:30 World News 11:39 British Press Review 12:15 Science in Action 11:45 Sports Review 12:15 Letter from America 12:30 Religious Service 13:00 World News 13:10 World Phone In It's Your World 13:55 News About Britain 14:00 Play of the Week 15:00 World News 15:09 Commentary 15:15 Grand Books 15:30 Villains 15:45 The Tony Mase Request Line 16:30 The Gentleman Style 17:00 Radio Newsweek 17:15 Concert Hall 18:00 World News 18:09 Commentary 18:15 From our own Correspondent 18:35 Financial Review 18:45 Letter from America 19:00 World News 19:09 Meridian 19:30 Financial Review 19:40 Reflections 19:45 Sports Round-up 20:00 Newsweek 20:30 Brain of Britain 19:54 21:00 Music For a While 21:15 Don't Worry about Mañana 22:00 World News 22:00 Commentary 22:15 Letterbox 22:30 Sunday Hall-Host 22:30 Letter from Everywhere 23:15 The Pleasure's Yours 24:00 World News 00:00 Science in Action 00:40 Reflections 00:45 Sports Round-up
FOREIGN CHANNEL	18:00 French Play 19:00 News in French 19:15 Le Theatre de Bouvary 19:30 News in Arabic 20:00 News in Arabic 20:30 Tales of the Unexpected 21:10 Napoleon and Love 22:00 News in English 22:15 Best Sellers' Choice
RADIO JORDAN 888 KHz, AM, 90 MHz, FM A path on 95.01 KHz, SW	07:00 Light Music 07:30 Newsweek 08:00 Morning Show 08:00 News Summary 08:05 Morning Show 08:15 News Summary 08:20 Pop Session 08:30 News Summary 08:35 News Summary 08:40 News Bulletin 08:45 News Bulletin 08:50 News Bulletin 08:55 News Bulletin 09:00 News Bulletin 09:05 News Bulletin 09:10 News Bulletin 09:15 News Bulletin 09:20 News Bulletin 09:25 News Bulletin 09:30 News Bulletin 09:35 News Bulletin 09:40 News Bulletin 09:45 News Bulletin 09:50 News Bulletin 09:55 News Bulletin 10:00 News Bulletin 10:05 News Bulletin 10:10 News Bulletin 10:15 News Bulletin 10:20 News Bulletin 10:25 News Bulletin 10:30 News Bulletin 10:35 News Bulletin 10:40 News Bulletin 10:45 News Bulletin 10:50 News Bulletin 10:55 News Bulletin 11:00 News Bulletin 11:05 News Bulletin 11:10 News Bulletin 11:15 News Bulletin 11:20 News Bulletin 11:25 News Bulletin 11:30 News Bulletin 11:35 News Bulletin 11:40 News Bulletin 11:45 News Bulletin 11:50 News Bulletin 11:55 News Bulletin 12:00 News Bulletin 12:05 News Bulletin 12:10 News Bulletin 12:15 News Bulletin 12:20 News Bulletin 12:25 News Bulletin 12:30 News Bulletin 12:35 News Bulletin 12:40 News Bulletin 12:45 News Bulletin 12:50 News Bulletin 12:55 News Bulletin 13:00 News Bulletin 13:05 News Bulletin 13:10 News Bulletin 13:15 News Bulletin 13:20 News Bulletin 13:25 News Bulletin 13:30 News Bulletin 13:35 News Bulletin 13:40 News Bulletin 13:45 News Bulletin 13:50 News Bulletin 13:55 News Bulletin 14:00 News Bulletin 14:05 News Bulletin 14:10 News Bulletin 14:15 News Bulletin 14:20 News Bulletin 14:25 News Bulletin 14:30 News Bulletin 14:35 News Bulletin 14:40 News Bulletin 14:45 News Bulletin 14:50 News Bulletin 14:55 News Bulletin 15:00 News Bulletin 15:05 News Bulletin 15:10 News Bulletin 15:15 News Bulletin 15:20 News Bulletin 15:25 News Bulletin 15:30 News Bulletin 15:35 News Bulletin 15:40 News Bulletin 15:45 News Bulletin 15:50 News Bulletin 15:55 News Bulletin 16:00 News Bulletin 16:05 News Bulletin 16:10 News Bulletin 16:15 News Bulletin 16:20 News Bulletin 16:25 News Bulletin 16:30 News Bulletin 16:35 News Bulletin 16:40 News Bulletin 16:45 News Bulletin 16:50 News Bulletin 16:55 News Bulletin 17:00 News Bulletin 17:05 News Bulletin 17:10 News Bulletin 17:15 News Bulletin 17:20 News Bulletin 17:25 News Bulletin 17:30 News Bulletin 17:35 News Bulletin 17:40 News Bulletin 17:45 News Bulletin 17:50 News Bulletin 17:55 News Bulletin 18:00 News Bulletin 18:05 News Bulletin 18:10 News Bulletin 18:15 News Bulletin 18:20 News Bulletin 18:25 News Bulletin 18:30 News Bulletin 18:35 News Bulletin 18:40 News Bulletin 18:45 News Bulletin 18:50 News Bulletin 18:55 News Bulletin 19:00 News Bulletin 19:05 News Bulletin 19:10 News Bulletin 19:15 News Bulletin 19:20 News Bulletin 19:25 News Bulletin 19:30 News Bulletin 19:35 News Bulletin 19:40 News Bulletin 19:45 News Bulletin 19:50 News Bulletin 19:55 News Bulletin 20:00 News Bulletin 20:05 News Bulletin 20:10 News Bulletin 20:15 News Bulletin 20:20 News Bulletin 20:25 News Bulletin 20:30 News Bulletin 20:35 News Bulletin 20:40 News Bulletin 20:45 News Bulletin 20:50 News Bulletin 20:55 News Bulletin 21:00 News Bulletin 21:05 News Bulletin 21:10 News Bulletin 21:15 News Bulletin 21:20 News Bulletin 21:25 News Bulletin 21:30 News Bulletin 21:35 News Bulletin 21:40 News Bulletin 21:45 News Bulletin 21:50 News Bulletin 21:55 News Bulletin 22:00 News Bulletin 22:05 News Bulletin 22:10 News Bulletin 22:15 News Bulletin 22:20 News Bulletin 22:25 News Bulletin 22:30 News Bulletin 22:35 News Bulletin 22:40 News Bulletin 22:45 News Bulletin 22:50 News Bulletin 22:55 News Bulletin 23:00 News Bulletin 23:05 News Bulletin 23:10 News Bulletin 23:15 News Bulletin 23:20 News Bulletin 23:25 News Bulletin 23:30 News Bulletin 23:35 News Bulletin 23:40 News Bulletin 23:45 News Bulletin 23:50 News Bulletin 23:55 News Bulletin 24:00 News Bulletin

WHAT'S GOING ON	
TODAY'S EVENTS	EXHIBITIONS
* A collection of paintings and other works of art by local and international artists on show at the Alia Art Gallery, 664240.	* Exhibition of paintings by Nazareth college students at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.
* Opening of the Jordanian National Folklore exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.	* "Festival de Cannes" exhibition of the Royal Cultural Centre.
CULTURAL CENTRES	ROYAL CULTURAL CENTRE Tel. 6610297
American Cultural Centre 41250	American Cultural Centre 41250
British Council 361478	British Council 361478
French Cultural Centre 37009	French Cultural Centre 37009
Greek Institute 41993	Greek Institute 41993
Soviet Cultural Centre 44213	Soviet Cultural Centre 44213
Spanish Cultural Centre 24449	Spanish Cultural Centre 24449
Turkish Cultural Centre 39777	Turkish Cultural Centre 39777
Haya Arts Centre 665195	Haya Arts Centre 665195
Husseini Youth City 667181	Husseini Youth City 667181
Y.W.C.A. 41793	Y.W.C.A. 41793
Y.W.M.C.A. 664251	Y.W.M.C.A. 664251
Amman Municipal Library 36111	Amman Municipal Library 36111
University of Jordan Library 643555	University of Jordan Library 643555
MUSEUMS	Folklore Museum Jewellery and costumes over 100 years old. Also murals from Maabab and Jerash (4th to 19th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 51790.
Jordan Archaeological Museum Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays.	Jordan Archaeological Museum Has an excellent collection of the antiquities of Jordan. Jabal Al Qal'a (Citadel Hill). Opening hours: 9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. (Fridays and official holidays 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.). Closed Tuesdays. Tel. 30128.
PRAYER TIMES	06:54 Fair 07:31 (Sunrise) Sunrise 11:23 Dhuhr 15:14 Asr 18:36 Maghrib 20:12 Isha

FOR THE TRAVELLER	
AMMAN AIRPORT	ARRIVALS
This information is supplied by Alia International department at the Queen Alia International Airport, tel. (08) 53250, 53070, 53082, 53171, where it should always be verified.	06:00 Cairo (MS) 06:15 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (SV) 06:30 Baghdad (RU) 06:45 Kuwait (RU) 06:55 Jeddah (SV) 07:00 London, Paris (RU) 07:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 07:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 07:45 Kuwait (RU) 07:55 Jeddah (SV) 08:00 London, Paris (RU) 08:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 08:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 08:45 Kuwait (RU) 08:55 Jeddah (SV) 09:00 London, Paris (RU) 09:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 09:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 09:45 Kuwait (RU) 09:55 Jeddah (SV) 10:00 London, Paris (RU) 10:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 10:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 10:45 Kuwait (RU) 10:55 Jeddah (SV) 11:00 London, Paris (RU) 11:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 11:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 11:45 Kuwait (RU) 11:55 Jeddah (SV) 12:00 London, Paris (RU) 12:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 12:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 12:45 Kuwait (RU) 12:55 Jeddah (SV) 13:00 London, Paris (RU) 13:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 13:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 13:45 Kuwait (RU) 13:55 Jeddah (SV) 14:00 London, Paris (RU) 14:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 14:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 14:45 Kuwait (RU) 14:55 Jeddah (SV) 15:00 London, Paris (RU) 15:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 15:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 15:45 Kuwait (RU) 15:55 Jeddah (SV) 16:00 London, Paris (RU) 16:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 16:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 16:45 Kuwait (RU) 16:55 Jeddah (SV) 17:00 London, Paris (RU) 17:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 17:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 17:45 Kuwait (RU) 17:55 Jeddah (SV) 18:00 London, Paris (RU) 18:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 18:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 18:45 Kuwait (RU) 18:55 Jeddah (SV) 19:00 London, Paris (RU) 19:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 19:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 19:45 Kuwait (RU) 19:55 Jeddah (SV) 20:00 London, Paris (RU) 20:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 20:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 20:45 Kuwait (RU) 20:55 Jeddah (SV) 21:00 London, Paris (RU) 21:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 21:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 21:45 Kuwait (RU) 21:55 Jeddah (SV) 22:00 London, Paris (RU) 22:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 22:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 22:45 Kuwait (RU) 22:55 Jeddah (SV) 23:00 London, Paris (RU) 23:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 23:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 23:45 Kuwait (RU) 23:55 Jeddah (SV) 24:00 London, Paris (RU) 24:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 24:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 24:45 Kuwait (RU) 24:55 Jeddah (SV) 25:00 London, Paris (RU) 25:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 25:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 25:45 Kuwait (RU) 25:55 Jeddah (SV) 26:00 London, Paris (RU) 26:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 26:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 26:45 Kuwait (RU) 26:55 Jeddah (SV) 27:00 London, Paris (RU) 27:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 27:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 27:45 Kuwait (RU) 27:55 Jeddah (SV) 28:00 London, Paris (RU) 28:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 28:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 28:45 Kuwait (RU) 28:55 Jeddah (SV) 29:00 London, Paris (RU) 29:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 29:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 29:45 Kuwait (RU) 29:55 Jeddah (SV) 30:00 London, Paris (RU) 30:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 30:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 30:45 Kuwait (RU) 30:55 Jeddah (SV) 31:00 London, Paris (RU) 31:15 Doha, Riyadh (SV) 31:30 Tripoli, Amman (MS) 31:45 Kuwait (RU

New Irbid grain silo boosts storage capacity

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein will Monday inaugurate a food supply complex in Irbid and attend a celebration at Yarmouk University to mark the 38th anniversary of Jordan's Independence Day.

The supply complex includes a 50,000 tonne capacity grain silo which was completed late in 1983, thus raising the capacity of the existing silos in Irbid to 335,000 tonnes in addition to cold storage facilities with a capacity of 2,000 tonnes.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Supply said that the ministry has built additional stores in the complex capable of storing 8,000

tonnes of food and has installed an automated bakery that produces 18,000 loaves of bread per hour.

At the celebration which will be held at Yarmouk University, King Hussein will distribute medals to 85 veteran teachers and educationalists, and real estate deeds of housing units built at Farkuh, housing estate near Irbid to teachers and employees in the Irbid Governorate.

The beneficiaries of the housing project are being charged 10 per cent of the cost instead of 15 per cent as a down payment upon instructions by Prime Minister Ahmad 'Obeidat.

Embezzlers imprisoned; supply rule violators fined

AMMAN (J.T.) — The military court has passed sentence on five Jordanians for the embezzlement of public funds, violation of Ministry of Supply regulations and other offences.

Ahmad Mahmoud Dajaj was sentenced to 15 months in prison with hard labour and fined the amount of JD 6,840 which he embezzled. He was also found to have forged official documents as part of the embezzlement.

Mahmoud Al Fasalh was sentenced to three years in prison and was fined JD 2,293, the amount

which he embezzled. Ya'qoub Rihani was fined JD 200 for selling canned food unfit for human consumption. The canned food was confiscated and destroyed.

Rashed Suleiman Nimer was sentenced to two months in prison for growing vegetables near the Zarqa River and watering them with waste water. The vegetables have also been destroyed.

Zuhair Issa Khalil Qaqish was fined JD 200 for violating the Ministry of Industry, Trade and Tourism regulations.

U.N. mission expected

AMMAN (J.T.) — A United Nations fact-finding mission is due here Tuesday evening to investigate Israel's practices in the occupied Arab territory.

The mission is being led by Sri Lanka's permanent ambassador, to the United Nations, and includes the ambassadors of Senegal

and Yugoslavia, as well as a delegation of 15 senior U.N. officials. They will meet Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Shawkat Mahmoud and several witnesses of Israel's expansionist practices on the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The mission is expected to leave Thursday for Damascus.

Arab stock market union debates financial planning

AMMAN (Petra) — The expansion of the budget of the Arab Union of Stock Markets (AUSM) over the past five years, and the AUSM's forecast expenditure and future plans in the light of present financial constraints were discussed during the meeting of the follow-up committee of the Arab League General Secretariat.

The follow-up committee comprises the directors of the Amman Financial Market (AFM), the Beirut Stock Exchange, the Tunisian Stock Exchange and the Kuwaiti Stock Exchange as well as the director of finance and investment at the Arab League secretariat.

The arrangements for establishing the union's headquarters in Amman and appointing a co-ordinator to be in charge were also discussed during the meeting.

Mr. Ayesh Saliman from the AFM was elected as co-ordinator pending the appointment of a union secretary-general which

is scheduled for next year.

The meeting also ironed out matters of organisation related to the holding of a special seminar on Arab stock exchanges to be held in Tunis, and agreed upon the agenda and date of the union's forthcoming meeting which will be held in Casablanca.

The AUSM was established in 1982 with the aims of co-ordinating work between the managers of markets in member states, facilitating the exchange of technical expertise and helping to standardise laws related to this field. It also seeks to help facilitate the productive investment of Arab funds.

The union also aims to encourage investment in Arab development projects, in addition to contributing to the establishment of a pan-Arab financial market.

The union comprises Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia, Morocco, Sudan and Kuwait as its members.



A traditional folklore troupe Saturday performs in celebration of the 38th anniversary of Jordan's independence (Petra photo)

Independence Day jubilation continues

MA'AN (J.T.) — Jordanians Saturday continued their celebration of Jordan's 38th independence anniversary.

In Ma'an, southern Jordan, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Suleiman Arar opened a three-day exhibition of maps and drawings of Jordanian archaeological, agricultural, and industrial regions prepared by the Jordan National Geographic Centre.

Also on display is modern equipment used in the precise measurements and preparation of maps. Present at the opening ceremony were Ma'an Governor, and other local officials.

Public marches were organised on the occasion in which school children, scouts and representatives of public and private organisations took part.

The streets of Ma'an were bedecked with flags and other decorative signs and national dance performances were performed in the city squares.

In Zarqa, a huge march was organised on the occasion with

scouts, school children carrying posters of His Majesty King Hussein as well as banners and other national slogans.

Taking part in the march were representatives of local companies and organisations.

The march ended at a local school where a celebration, that included national songs and dances, was held.

Brass band parade

In Karak, army brass bands paraded through the streets followed by marchers drawn from local schools, scouting associations and youth clubs.

Members of local companies and organisations also took part in the march.

At the city's ancient citadel, Karak Governor Ahmad Al Qura'ani opened a national folk exhibition.

The five day display will feature traditional handicrafts produced by charitable societies in Mazra, Shahabieh, Ghor Al Mazra'a and

other regions around Karak.

Also on show are posters, booklets and other illustrations depicting tourist and archaeological sites in the Karak Governorate.

Independence Day celebrations were also held in the Balqa Governorate Saturday.

Nearly 700 scouts marched in a procession carrying flags and King Hussein's portrait as well as posters bearing national slogans.

Marching at the head of the procession were Balqa Governor Mohammad Khatib, directors of various government departments in Salt, and other officials.

School children organised exhibitions of paintings, and dabke dances were held in the main squares of Salt.

In the Jordan Valley town of Deir Alla another march was organised and the streets were decorated with flags and other posters.

Also in Mahes, a celebration was held by youth clubs and scouts who organised a march through the city.

Queen Noor to inaugurate second student-built community centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor will Sunday inaugurate the Sweileh Community Centre which was built by students in the Department of Sociology at the University of Jordan.

The centre, which was built on a 3.5-dunum area of land located in the eastern side of the city, consists of six rooms which house a library, a lecture room, a theatre for children, a clinic and a multipurpose room in addition to a store house, a garden and a children's playground, a section for teaching dress-making, a literacy centre and a section for teaching typing, and weaving.

The centre, the second to be built by the students the first being Hay Nazzal community centre which was completed in 1980, was constructed by students including non-Jordanians under the supervision of Dr. Sari Nasir, professor of sociology at the university.

Dr. Nasir told the Jordan Times

that the centre will offer services mostly to deprived and unfortunate children and will follow the services given by the Hay Nazzal centre.

The land on which the centre has been built was donated by Sweileh municipality and university students and other volunteers co-operated in building it.

Dr. Nasir said.

He said that the centre, which took two years to complete, was financed mainly by private organisations and individuals.

The project was carried out as part of the students' course of study at the university, and will help to strengthen their spirit of responsibility and to allow them to render useful service to the community, Dr. Nasir said.

Princess Alia opens Hay Nazzal centre exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Highness Princess Alia Saturday opened an exhibition of handicrafts, embroidery work, photographs and drawings and books and publications for children at Hay Nazzal Community Centre.

The centre, which was built by sociology students at the University of Jordan in 1980, offers various types of activities for the

local community especially children.

The items on display have been prepared by the children and women of Hay Nazzal.

The exhibition was attended by Dr. Sari Nasir, professor of sociology at the University of Jordan and director of the centre, officials and invited guests.

King decorates Iraqi paratroopers, airmen

Jordan, Iraq have same objectives, says Hussein

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein stressed here Saturday that the Jordanian and Iraqi people have common objectives and are striving to attain the same goals.

He was speaking at a ceremony held at the Royal Court to decorate Iraqi airmen and paratroopers for their bravery and in recognition of their great skill and resourcefulness.

The group, which included four

pilots and 12 paratroopers, were awarded distinguished service medals by the King for the part they played in Friday's celebrations marking Jordan's 38th Independence Day anniversary.

The ceremony was attended by Chief of the Royal Court Marwan Al Qasem and Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh.

Meanwhile Saturday, King Hussein received more cables of good wishes on the anniversary of Independence Day from kings and heads of state of Arab and foreign friendly nations.

These came from King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, King Juan Carlos of Spain, King Mutawakkil of Malaysia, Queen Elizabeth II of Britain, the presidents of South Korea, Portugal, Greece and Senegal, the prime ministers of Thailand and Kuwait, Sheikh Sa'd Al Abdullah Al Sabah and the president of India, Giani Zail Singh.



The seminar on "Population and Development" opens at the Amman Chamber of Industry Saturday (Petra photo)

'Population, development interrelated'

By Olga Mikhael
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ministry of Labour Under-Secretary Saleh Al Khasawneh opened Saturday a seminar on "Population and Development" at the Amman Chamber of Industry.

In his opening speech, Mr. Khasawneh addressed the 40 participants saying that "the Ministry of Labour was always interested in holding specialised seminars, especially those on population and development."

He added that development, employment and population are interrelated matters, and "we have to take this into account in our policies at the ministry."

President of Amman Club for Business and Professional Women (ACBPW), Mrs. Hind Abdul Jabbar, said that the participation of the club in this seminar is derived from the club's aim of explaining the influence of employment and demographic factors on socio-economic development.

Mrs. Abdul Jabbar added: "I am sure that the papers will help encourage women's participation in

comprehensive development plans."

Mr. Mahmoud Al Tal, director of the labour education department at the Ministry of Labour, presented a study on population education, its concepts, objectives and its importance in family planning.

In his paper, Mr. Tal, questioned "the services we have offered to women to enable them to participate in the labour force."

"I propose", he added, "that we plan programme to satisfy educational, social, health, psychological and economic needs of women."

Discussing the demographic problems in Jordan, he said: "Over 55 per cent of the Jordanian population are concentrated in the Amman, Zarqa and Irbid areas. 80 per cent of our industries, while commercial centres and government institutions are also concentrated in these areas. That leads to the development of urban areas at the expense of rural areas."

Mrs. Buhaina Jardaneh and Mrs. Salwa Al Masri, from the ACBPW, presented a paper on

the club and the training and development of women.

Mrs. Masri said: "The Jordanian government is trying to solve its demographic problems by increasing the level of manpower, as it forms the backbone of development and helps to facilitate speedy economic and social progress."

"This migration had a great impact on demographic changes such as with regards to population growth, the age structure and the geographical distribution in Jordan," she continued.

"The population of the East Bank, according to the 1979 census statistics, is 2,152,273, out of which 47.6 per cent are females, 50.6 per cent are under 15 years of age, while rate of the total population forms 46.6 per cent," she said.

"The annual rate of population growth in Jordan is 4.96 per cent, while the normal birth rate in Jordan should have been 3.8 per cent. This growth forms the highest rate of growth in the world," she concluded.



A publicity shot of the film Hanna K., directed by Costa Gavras which will be shown as part of the French film festival which begins here Sunday.

French film festival opens today

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A French film festival organised by the Jordanian Cine-Club, in co-operation with the French embassy here, will begin Sunday with the showing of the notable film Hanna K., by Costa Gavras, director of "Z" and "Missing".

Hanna K. tells the story of a young Palestinian man who struggles to make the Israeli authorities recognise his legitimate rights to his own house and his family's land.

The film, starring Jill Clayburgh and Jean Yanne, received much critical acclaim wherever it was

shown.

Amongst the other six films on show at the Royal Cultural Centre will be "Bastienne" by Michel Andrieu who is currently in Jordan at the invitation of the Cine-Club to discuss the film and to acquaint Jordanian film enthusiasts with the French film industry.

Mr. Andrieu participated, with his film "The Trouble", in the recent Cannes Film Festival held between May 11 and 23.

"Le Dessein de Juliette", by Aline Issermann, will be shown on May 30.

The film tells the factual story of the life of a woman between the sixties and the present day.

On May 31, Bertrand Tavernier's "La Mort En Direct" will be featured which is the story of a dying woman who agreed to have her death filmed.

"Les Parapluies de Cherbourg" by Jacques Demy, on show on June 2, was produced in 1964, and depicts the effect of the Algerian war on a couple, while "Un Etrange Voyage" by Alain Cavalier

on show the next day, depicts the plight of a family in trouble.

The last day of the festival June 4 will witness "La Nuit Americaine" by Francois Truffaut which describes the life of the people in the movies. Tickets are sold for JD 1 at the Royal Cultural Centre.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Bashir okays importation of apples

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Bashir has approved the trade plan for the month of June which was issued by the Agricultural Economy and Planning Department at the ministry. The plan allows for the importation of apples, carrots, beetroot and garlics while the importation of cherries and apricots will be permitted starting June 10. The plan, however, banned the importation of any other fruits and vegetables though the export of all fruits and vegetables will be permitted.

ACC loans used to purchase fodder

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Agricultural Credit Corporation (ACC) this month granted agricultural loans totalling JD 210,000 to 35 farmers in Jordan, according to a story in the local daily newspaper Sawt Al Shaab. The loans were to buy fodder for livestock in various parts of the country because of the drought which has affected the production of such crops. The loans also helped finance the reclamation of agricultural land, the installation of drip-irrigation networks, the purchase of water pumps as well as agricultural machinery.

Nabulsi passes Sakeb municipal budget

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Hamdullah Nabulsi has approved the budget of the Sakeb municipality which amounts to JD 263,831. The budget will primarily be spent on projects such as general health and cleanliness, road construction, street lighting, buying agricultural lands and for building commercial warehouses.

Karaki doctors stage medical day

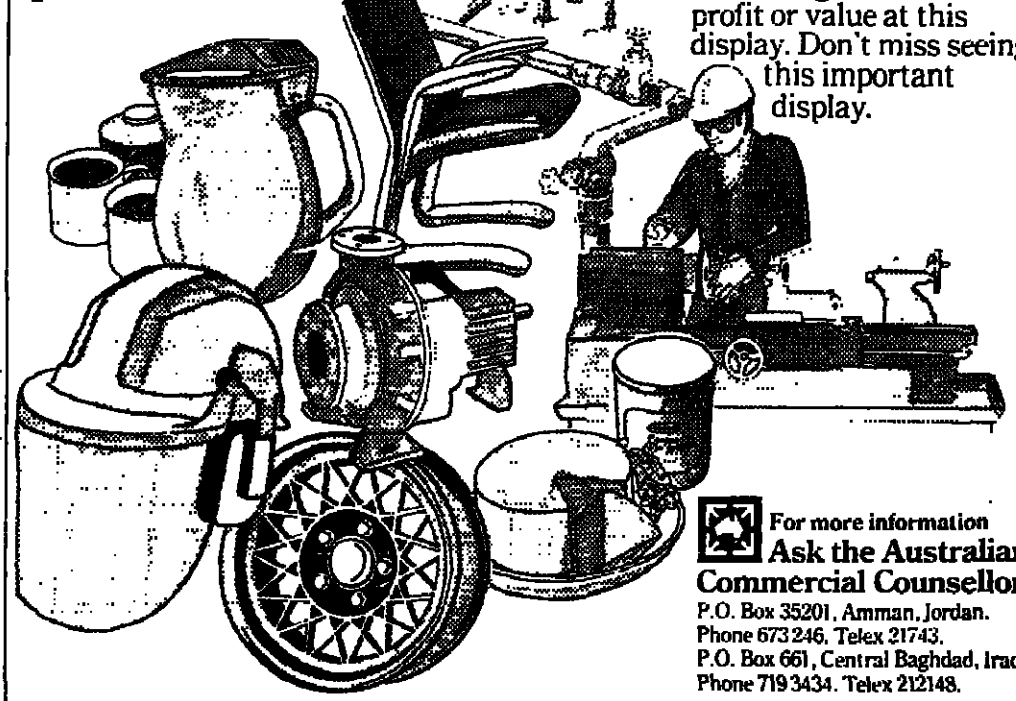
KARAK (Petra) — The sub-committee of the Doctors Association in the district of Karak, in co-operation with the scientific committee of the Jordanian Doctors Association, sponsored a medical day at the Professional Associations Complex in Karak. The day, the fourth such event of its kind featured a series of lectures by doctors on a number of medical subjects especially on gynaecology. The day was also an exhibition of medicines and medical books.

VISIT THE AUSTRALIAN TRADE DISPLAY

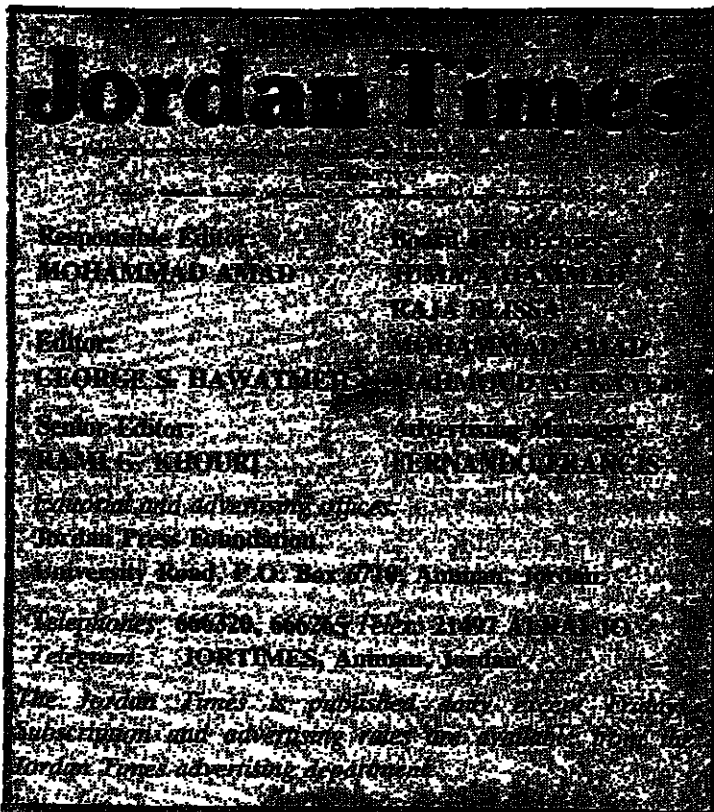
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Colombo's wrong turn

SRI LANKA's decision last week to allow Israel to open an "interests section office" in Colombo is bound to have serious repercussions on the Indian Ocean island's traditionally strong relations with the Arab World.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Shaukat Hameed, confronted by the opposition in parliament on Friday, was at pains to explain that Colombo needs the "consultancy" services of Mossad, the ill-famous Israeli secret service, to quell "Tamil terrorism" in the northern regions of the country and that the opening of an Israeli "office" does not reflect any change in the country's foreign policy or support for Arab and Palestinian causes.

The Israeli "office," to be housed within the American diplomatic mission in Colombo, would maintain a "limited presence" of Israelis, Mr. Hameed said. But his statement indicated that Sri Lanka was happy to use Mossad's "expertise in dealing with Palestinian terrorists" to fight off the Tamil rebels, who are waging a violent campaign against the government of President Junius Jayewardene for a separate state for the Tamil minority in the north.

According to political observers, Washington may have played a strong role in the Sri Lankan decision, which will allow Israel to re-establish some kind of relation with Colombo after a break of 14 years, especially that an American couple were abducted and freed after five days in captivity by the Tamil rebels recently.

Parliament opposition leader Anura Bandaranaike, son of former Prime Minister Sirimavo Bandaranaike who severed all relations with the Zionist state in fulfillment of her election promise in 1969, described Israel as a pariah in the international scene and voiced concern that it would try to exert pressure on Colombo after setting up the "office" for the resumption of full diplomatic relations.

The present government of Mr. Jayewardene, which came to power in 1977, may still follow the official policy of supporting Arab and Palestinian causes as the government of Mrs. Bandaranaike did some years ago.

But the official Sri Lankan explanation that Colombo needs the services of Mossad is definitely a negative development in Arab-Sri Lankan relations. And Mossad, which has acquired an ill-savoury reputation by systematically carrying out attacks and assassination attempts against prominent Palestinian leaders and activists abroad, looks set to be the forerunner of a major Israeli diplomatic offensive to penetrate the ruling circles in Colombo in a bid to persuade Sri Lanka to resume full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Apart from its total dependence on Arab oil, Sri Lanka also has strong trade links with the Arab World, and quite a large number of Sri Lankans are working in the Arabian Gulf whose foreign currency remittances are vital for the impoverished nation's economy. By moving closer towards Israel, that country is inevitably inviting a re-assessment of good Arab-Sri Lankan co-operation that has lasted for many years.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Non-aligned effort

THE DANGEROUS developments in the Gulf, in their aims and dimensions, necessitate a quick joint Arab move to urge the non-aligned states into renewing their mediation for putting and end to the Iran-Iraq war, especially after the "American warnings" against the risks threatening the Saudi oil fields, and American hints about the American oil reserves have revealed the American intentions. These intentions meet with the Israeli intentions for dissolving the Palestinian problem.

Perhaps the non-aligned states are more prepared now to renew their attempt, especially when the joint American-Israeli interests in keeping the Gulf war alive hide in their folds serious dangers threatening the Non-Aligned Movement itself. In such a case there should not be exaggerated hopes attached to the U.N. Security Council, which has started to discuss the complaint of the Gulf states against the Iranian bombardment of oil tankers. However, there should be an acceleration of Arab efforts along with efforts of the non-aligned states to put an end to the Gulf war and to block out the way to American-Israeli manipulation of the situation.

Al-Dustour: UNSC discusses Gulf

EVEN THOUGH the complaint which the U.N. Security Council has started to discuss is restricted to the Iranian aggression against oil tankers in the Arab Gulf, we believe that this is an opportunity for the international community to shoulder its responsibilities not only towards this aspect of the Iranian behaviour which has been condemned at a widest international range, but also towards the war itself which has been going on for several years amidst unjustifiable indifference.

The continuation of this war in a region described as the world's industrial vein and the source for the world's economic luxury brings to mind many liabilities. One is the possibility of a halt in oil supplies and the other is the danger of international interferences, which are two probabilities that have been confirmed during the late developments of the war.

The International Security Council is called upon to bear its responsibility of preventing aggression on states that have no part in the war, and to guarantee the freedom of sea trade and transport in international waters. Such noble aims cannot be achieved if the war was not given serious and exceptional care to put an end, and to terminate its major causes. This is a task that requires shattering basic responsibilities by the Council as they fall within its sphere of specialisation.

Sawt Al Shaab: Rise still urgent

FOREIGN OCCUPATION of territories of the Arab Nation, and foreign control over its political, economic and military bodies were the factors preventing it from achieving its dreams in ridding itself from ignorance, poverty and all forms of backwardness and enabling it to start a unified national effort aimed at Arab unity.

Not only was the situation as such in Jordan and Palestine alone but it was so in Syria, Lebanon and all Arab countries whose people had participated in the Great Arab Revolt, after which direct and indirect colonial reign took place. This suppressed all national hopes and all means for expressing them. Continuation of Arab effort for unity after foreign occupation had left did not happen. Instead, what took place were changes enforced by the revolution of public communication systems and circumstances imposed by narrow considerations rather than pan-Arab priorities.

As for the continuation of the national independence process, and for building up Arab relations on national and social rather than on geographical bases, day after day these aspects have been increasingly ignored in most parts of our big Arab World regrettably making way for short-term and easier options.

Why should the Housing Bank retain privileges?

By Fahed Fanek

TEN YEARS ago Jordan felt the acuteness of the shortages in housing resulting from the natural high growth of population and the influx of refugees.

At the same time the limited-income families found that buying or building a house became increasingly beyond their financial means.

The government responded to this problem by establishing a specialised institution, (Housing Bank) to alleviate the problem by extending credit at reasonable interest rates and for 15 years to limited income individuals, and accordingly granted the bank certain advantages and exemptions which accumulated and increased over time.

In 10 years, the Housing Bank emerged as a giant bank competing with other banks for deposits, loans, investments and all forms of banking transactions.

This article is to call on the government to reconsider these advantages and concessions in the light of the present situation.

If the Housing Bank is allowed to operate like any other commercial bank, it must submit to the same laws and regulations that govern the operations of such banks, and give up the unfair advantages packed in its special law.

In ten years the Housing Bank grew in size to reach the second place among Jordanian banks, second only to Arab Bank. Competition is the decisive factor in banks advancement or retreat but... the simple rule of competition is

fair-play. The competitors must play under the same unified rules. This is not the case, the Housing Bank is competing with commercial banks on unequal basis.

In theory, the Housing Bank takes the form of a public shareholding company, and its management conducts business with the flexibility and range given to a shareholding company. The Companies Law did give shareholding companies certain rights and obligations. The Housing Bank would like to take the advantages of shareholding companies without shouldering their duties and limitations.

To sum up, if the Housing Bank would like to compete with commercial banks, and enjoy the flexibility of shareholding companies, it has to abide by the provisions of the Banks Law and Companies Law respectively, and give up the special advantages and exemptions, piled up in its special law.

The Housing Bank loans to individuals became a secondary activity compared to its other expanding activities as a bank of banks, extending credit to public and private corporations as well as commercial banks, establishing new companies and banks inside Jordan and abroad, building huge and ultra modern office complexes, and operating and investing in hotels etc. It is high time to reconsider the whole setup and revoke all or most of the advantages contained unnecessarily in the Housing Bank Law, leaving it to function as a normal bank

subject to the laws of banks, companies, income tax etc...

If the government is keen about subsidising the interest rate on individual housing loans, by one or two percentage points, it can do that directly, using a small part of what it is currently subsidising shareholders (65 per cent for non-Jordanians).

The unfair advantages bestowed on the bank are, I think, in contradiction with the public interest, equality, banking practices and, sometimes, good business sense.

Following are some of the advantages enjoyed by the Housing Bank:

1- The Treasury and the Central Bank contributed one million dinars in the form of ordinary shares with no rights to dividends. The cost of this gesture is around JD 100,000 a year. (Articles 9 and 53).

2- The following funds must be deposited with the Housing Bank irrespective of the wishes of their managements or owners (Article 14):

a. Funds of Housing corporations.

b. Funds of all housing co-operative societies.

c. Loans and aid received by the government or its public corporations for the purpose of financing housing or construction projects.

d. Cash deposits made to the order of the minister of industry and trade pursuant to the law of insurance companies.

e. Funds of housing in all public corporations and government departments.

1. A percentage to be specified by the governor of the Central Bank of the total cash assets owned by the Post Office Saving Funds, Social Security Fund, Provident Funds, Retirement Funds in all public institutions.

g. Any funds owned by any public authority which the council of ministers may name at the recommendation of the Housing Bank board of directors.

3- The bank is not under obligation to pay interest at the going rates on the above funds with the exception of the funds mentioned in (f) above. (Article 15).

4- Interest and prizes paid by the bank are tax exempt.

5- All Housing Bank income, whether distributed or retained is absolutely tax exempt. (Article 16)

6- The government guarantees unconditionally all the obligations to third parties. The government has not to approve of these obligations in advance or even be consulted or advised about them. (Article 17)

7- The government guarantees a minimum of 6 per cent to the shareholders in any given year. Shareholders have the priority of above that limit up to 10 per cent p.a. after which the profits will belong to all shares equally. (Article 53 (A))

8- If the government was called upon to make up for the minimum guaranteed dividends, such payments will not be treated as a loan to be rec-

ouped from subsequent years' profits in excess of the guaranteed limit. The bank is not under obligation to use its reserves and income brought forward before calling on the government. (Article 53 (E))

9- The rights and loans of the bank have the same priority given by law to the public funds and rights of the Treasury. The bank has a priority line on all assets of its debtors and their guarantors. Irrespective of whether these assets were actually mortgaged to the bank. (Article 60)

10- The director general of the bank, by a simple letter, can instruct the Real Estate Department to mark the assets of the debtors and his guarantors as being seized for the benefit of the bank. (Article 61 B)

11- All Housing Bank's transactions and deals have the priority over other transactions and must be dealt with first by all concerned. (Article 62)

12- Courts will not look into any objections raised by borrowers of the bank or their guarantors or heirs, and in any case this should not delay steps taken by the Housing Bank against their assets, mortgaged or otherwise, unless the bank is actually paid cash in full, or if an absolute bank guarantee was submitted, covering the full debt involved, and payable within the maturity date specified in the original contract (Article 63)

13- The Housing Bank is exempted from all taxes or fees or financial costs due to the Treasury, governmental institutions, municipalities etc., which are related to the equity

of the Bank, its income, or profits, or assets movable or otherwise, documents or contracts including revenue stamps. (Article 65 A)

14- In spite of any provision in any other law, the Housing Bank has the right to seize 30 per cent of the salary of any employee and all his service end compensation, to collect bank's debt extended to such employee, even if the debt is not due yet. (Article 68)

15- All ministries of the state and public institutions are required to provide the Housing Bank with all technical assistance that the bank may need from time to time. (Article 70)

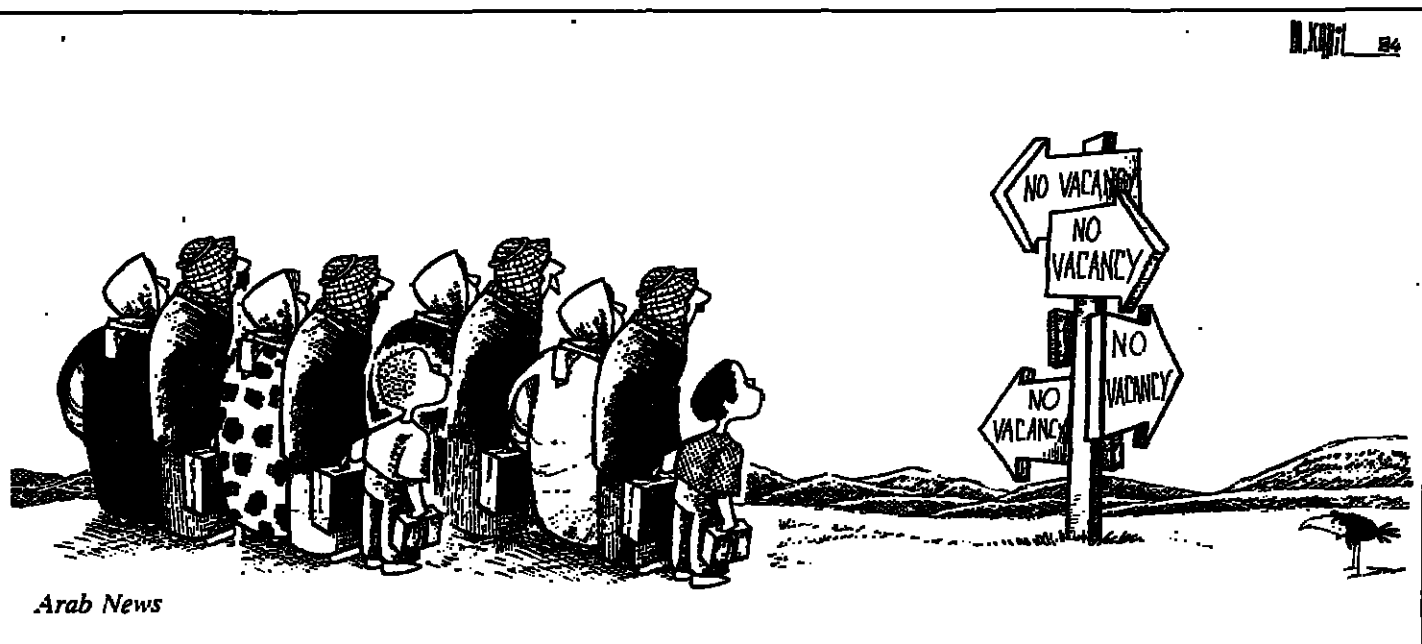
16- Nothing in the law would oblige the Bank to maintain the banking formulas imposed by the Central Bank on all commercial banks.

17- The Bank is not under obligation to deposit a percentage of its deposits with the Central Bank without interest like other bank's competing for deposits in the market.

18- Any other law or regulation is cancelled to the extent it contradicts the provisions of the law of the Housing Bank. (Article 73)

Under these advantages, I am not surprised that the Housing Bank has become the second bank in Jordan. I am surprised that the other banks are still surviving the heat.

I am pretty sure that this unreasonable situation will be corrected sooner or later, but it should be noted that the sooner the correction comes the less damage is inflicted on the Jordanian economy and the banking system.



Arab News

A tunnel kept Rafah people in touch

By Galina Vromen
Reuters

RAFAH, Israeli-Occupied Gaza — Frustrated Arab residents dug a secret tunnel under the Egyptian-Israeli frontier in an abortive effort to link this desert town which was carved in two by the Camp David peace treaty.

The tunnel, discovered by Israeli soldiers this week, has highlighted the plight of Rafah, an impoverished town of 85,000 people.

Since Israel returned the Sinai Peninsula to Egypt under the treaty two years ago, Rafah has been divided by a 20-metre frontier strip, barbed wire fences and watchtowers.

Angered by border regulations which make it costly and difficult to conduct business with residents on the other side, the people of Rafah went underground to maintain contact.

The tunnel, just big enough to

crawl through, ran for 60 metres from an abandoned, mud-floored house on the Israeli side to a house arily visible in Egyptian Rafah.

Israeli soldiers said the principal users were probably smugglers. Rafah residents were reluctant to discuss the tunnel but suggested it might have been used as a "post box" to deliver items such as wedding dowries, money and mail to relatives on the other side.

Tying plastic bags to a rope, smugglers pulled gold, money and hashish back and forth through the pipe. Israeli military officials said.

An Israeli spokesman said it appeared the Egyptians had not known of the tunnel. Egyptian soldiers could be seen shovelling sand to seal the opening on their side of the frontier.

Rafah was cut in two because the Camp David negotiators adopted a frontier line drawn in 1906

by the British and Turkish officials of the Ottoman Empire.

To create a secure frontier, Israeli bulldozers razed a strip of no man's land across the town, knocking down numerous homes.

As relations between the two countries cooled, so too have the hopes of Rafah's residents that Egypt and Israel might agree on a way to re-draw the border and unite the town.

"This is some peace," said Ali Shaar, a 13-year-old who helps run his family's grocery store. "It means I rarely see my cousins (on the Egyptian side) or some of the friends I used to go to school with."

"Two years ago, they told us we would have no problem crossing, that we would get special passes to go across whenever we wanted to," complained his father Ahmed. But it costs most residents 5,000 shekel (\$25) in fees each time they cross the border. Some complain

that recently Egyptian officials have turned back many visitors.

Instead, families meet at the barbed wire dividing the town and shout greetings across the border. Authorities have stopped them using megaphones and relatives strain to hear each other.

Hassan Mohammed Nachan, his wife and three of his grown children, waited on the Israeli side for his son in Egyptian Rafah to show up for a pre-arranged meeting.

A nephew came instead. "He can't make it today," he shouted across no man's land. "Be here again tomorrow at 5:00 and he'll try to come."

Mr. Nachan and his sons cross the border about once a year. "Life is pretty much the same on both sides," said his son Amin. "We sell our oranges in Tel Aviv, and my brother on the other side sells his in (the Egyptian town of) Al Arish."

Nehru's legacy is alive in troubled India

By Frances Kerry
Reuters

NEW DELHI — Among museum copies of newspaper cuttings and formal portraits is a family snapshot of a small, serious-faced child clutching her father's hand, an early glimpse of the two people who have dominated Indian politics since 1947.

Jawaharlal Nehru died on May 27, 1964, twenty years later. Indians are nostalgic for their first post-independence leader and critical of his daughter Indira Gandhi, in power almost continuously since his death.

The driving force behind the ruling Congress (I) Party, Mrs. Gandhi is finding her popularity, to be tested in elections due by January, at a low ebb.

Communal unrest racks India. More than 200 people have died this year in Sikh-Hindu clashes in the northern state of Punjab, where Sikhs are demanding religious and political concessions. In the last week, violence between Hindus and Muslims in and near Bombay has left more than 190 dead so far.

An angry press accuses Indians of forgetting freedom fighter Mahatma Gandhi's message of peace and says Prime Minister Gandhi has abandoned the spirit of Nehru.

The memory is indelible because "if Mahatma Gandhi was the architect of our freedom, Nehru was the architect of free India," a former minister, Karan Singh, told Reuters.

Against all the odds, Nehru united India, long divided by religion, caste and language, under the umbrella of democracy. "He was an absolutely dedicated democrat," said Karan Singh.

India became the world's largest democracy and an industrial power. With Tito of Yugoslavia and Nasser of Egypt, Nehru founded the Non-Aligned Movement and gave developing countries a measure of clout in international politics.

But the early dreams have soured. Despite Nehru's egalitarian socialism, an ideal Gandhi inherited, 300 million of India's total 700 million live below the poverty line. The factories, Nehru's "new temples of India", have brought

the new problems of urban overcrowding and pollution. The untouchables, who belong to no caste, are still ill-treated, bonded labour continues, and corruption is rife in political life.

Even Charan Singh, veteran politician, leader of the Lok Dal opposition party and critic of both Nehru and Mrs. Gandhi, is nostalgic about the early post-independence years.

At least Nehru had good intentions. Mrs. Gandhi has none at all, he told Reuters.

"Nehru's memory has been sanctified," said one political analyst, likening nostalgia for Nehru to that felt by Americans for President John Kennedy, assassinated in September, 1963.

"There was a certain disenchantment with them at the time of their deaths, but now they are seen as clean, idealistic politicians who have no match today," he added.

Karan Singh said: "The major difference between our age and Nehru's is the decline in public standards. Politicians now lack the ennobling experience of the free-

dom struggle."

For K.R. Narayanan, former Indian ambassador to Washington and Peking, the major change is a loss of idealism. "Nehru was a one-man campaigner for certain values, ideas. He ceaselessly lectured the whole of India, like a school master," he said.

"In the last 20 years, people have become more drawn to particular issues. Their vision has narrowed to immediate problems. Nehru kept people's sights aimed high," he added.

But Mr. Narayanan thought it unfair to compare Nehru and Mrs. Gandhi. There has not been a change of ideology, just a change of political and economic circumstances," he said, adding that Mrs. Gandhi was still the only politician matching Nehru.

Referring to her recent visit to riot-torn Bombay, where she talked to both Hindus and Muslims, Mr. Narayanan said: "No opposition leader could do that. That secular, all-India approach is a Nehru heritage."

For all her critics, Mrs. Gandhi still dominates Indian politics.

Brussels ties strings to EEC foreign aid

The EEC seems likely to insist that assistance given to developing countries under a new Lome Convention be used for productive projects rather than to relieve balance of payments pressures, Ivo Dawans reports.

BRUSSELS — The hazy outline of the next five-year trade and aid pact between the EEC and 64 African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries has begun to emerge from recent ministerial negotiations in Fiji. For the developing world, the picture it paints is bleak.

Following closely on last month's (April) deadlock in Washington over \$9 billion in new funds for the International Development Association, the World Bank's soft loan arm, the ACP nations now feel the EEC is tightening its grip on the terms of a successor to the second Lome Convention — once viewed as a model of aid without strings.

Mr. Edgard Pisani, the EEC development commissioner, made clear in Brussels that strings are now being firmly attached, in line with a generally more hard-nosed attitude to aid in the West these days. Asked baldly whether the EEC simply did not trust African states to spend funds productively, he replied with uncharacteristic frankness that this "hit the nail on the head."

The message also appears to be getting through to ACP countries, which have resisted Mr. Pisani's call for a "dialogue on policies" as unwarranted interference with sovereign states and contrary to the spirit of the original Lome Convention.

At the talks, however, it seemed that ACP countries were giving ground by conceding that better management of aid was needed. Mr. Hugh Shearer, the ACP council president, went further with a promise to discuss amendments to existing articles in the treaty to accommodate the EEC request.

In part at least, the ACP concessions are rooted in the weaknesses of their negotiating position and their desperate need for a generous deal. The combination of economic pressures born of the world recession has left them weaker today than when the first Lome Convention came into force in 1975. According to World Bank reports, GDP growth in low-income African countries, for example, has fallen from 3.5 per cent in the early 1970s to less than one per cent today.

The drop in world primary commodity prices in 1981-82, though now somewhat recovered, has been more than enough to cancel the benefits of EEC trade preferences awarded under the convention. And while food self-sufficiency has declined, development spending by the majority of EEC states remains far from the 0.7 per cent of GNP target set by the U.N.

Mr. Pisani's solution, tacitly endorsed by the Ten, is to re-orientate development programmes away from major prestige projects — cathedrals in the desert, as he calls them — towards greater emphasis on food self-sufficiency, intra-ACP trade and regional planning.

As a means of persuading recalcitrant states to toe the line, the EEC is expected to increase the reserve section of the Lome budget from its current 13 per cent to 25 per cent. This would enable the Community to reward collaborators with the Policy Dialogue principle with extra cash from the Lome treasure chest.

These include agreement to discuss at ad hoc meetings ACP complaints over the EEC's interpretation of the convention after signature, the treatment of ACP students and migrant workers in Europe and the implications of Spanish and Portuguese accession to the EEC.

There also appears to be less controversy over the EEC's demand for a reference to human rights in the new treaty, in the past strongly resisted by the ACP without parallel reference to rights in South Africa.

The most contentious remaining points to be negotiated centre on the use of Stabex funds, allocated to compensate for poor commodity prices, and the size of the total package itself.

On Stabex, the EEC is insisting that money given under the fund be used to develop the commodity itself and not, for example, to relieve balance of payments pressures. This is strongly resisted by the ACP countries.

As to the amount of funds available for the next five-year convention, all that has been indicated is that these will at least match the ECU6 billion (\$4.83 million) spent last time. However, ACP countries argue vigorously that they should at least be allowed to discuss the criteria on which the final decision is taken.

Population growth and inflation, for example, suggest that EEC transfers should be increased by at least 25 per cent to maintain spending at a rate of \$4 per capita. Some development specialists argue that a minimum of ECU 10 billion is needed just to stand still.

One recently published review argues cogently that much greater attention should be paid to the relaxation of trade restrictions as a means of boosting the developing world.

Quoting the Washington-based International Food Policy Research Institute, the survey argues that a 50 per cent reduction in OECD trade barriers would increase Third World exports by about 11 per cent, or \$3 billion a year (1977 prices), equal to more than half the total Lome allocation over the past five years.

No amount of Mr. Pisani's most eloquent reasoning can easily justify to the ACP recent EEC decisions to allow a boom in domestic sugar production, the stifling last year of Kenya's embryo strawberry exports or current attempts to cut existing ACP beet quotas.

"With the one hand," said one world-weary ACP ambassador, "The EEC gives, with the other it takes away." — Financial Times news feature.

2000-year old methods to modernise W. Deserts

By Robin Reeves

A remarkable transformation is taking place in Egypt's Western Desert, the area where just over 40 years ago Montgomery's Eighth Army and Rommel's Axis forces fought for control of the Suez Canal and Middle East oil supplies.

All along the coastal belt stretching 300 miles from Alexandria to the Libyan border, olive groves and fig and almond orchards are springing up in the desert scrubland, houses are replacing tents, and tractors are becoming as common as camels and donkeys.

The change reflects the combined efforts of the Egyptian government and the U.N. World Food Programme, sustained over more than 20 years, to persuade the region's 250,000 Bedouin tribesmen to abandon their traditional nomadic life and settle down as farmers.

Changing the living pattern of a millennium is not easy. "When we first approached the Bedouin encampments, they used to run off into the desert like gazelles," Mr. Mohamed Allam, the project's director, recalls. Even when he and his staff gained their confidence, the Bedouin took a long time to be convinced.

Now, however, the programme has taken off. Some 15,000 families have settled already, and a further 15,000 are in the process of doing so.

The Bedouins are essentially sheep producers who travel the desert to ensure an adequate supply of two essential commodities: water and grazing. Of the two, water is the more vital.

Rainfall is not completely unknown in the region. A belt stretching up to 70 kilometres inland from the coast usually receives about 150 mm of rain in about seven showers a year between November and March, which the Bedouin have traditionally used to grow a quick crop of barley for food and feed purposes. The rains, however, can fall, as in 1982 when disaster was only averted by 500 tonnes of fresh seed supplied by the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation.

The settlement programme is based on encouraging the Bedouin to harness the limited rainfall. Building small reservoirs is one method, but the Romans developed the most practicable answer 2,000 years ago: underground cisterns.

These are large underground caverns, hollowed out of the desert rock and lined with an impermeable material — these days, cement. Sited in the right spot, they fill up quickly in a reasonable downpour, and, like a well, provide enough water to meet a family's agricultural and personal needs all the year round.

At first, Mr. Allam and his team tried giving cash incentives to the

Bedouin families to restore a derelict Roman cistern, of which there are 5,000 in the region, or to dig their own; but the money often ended up being used for other purposes. Success came with the introduction of World Food Programme rations as an incentive for carrying out the work.

Each Bedouin family opting to settle is required, first, to build a cistern of 300 cubic metres, which holds enough water to irrigate five acres of fruit trees and meet other needs for three years; and second, to construct storm dykes across their planned orchard at one-acre intervals, to slow rainfall run-off and allow more water to seep into the soil.

Once settled, they receive title to the land at a token price — 200 acres maximum — and access to loans and marketing schemes through a local co-operative, of which there are now some 500 in the region.

Crucially, the scheme does not undermine Bedouin pride and independence. The WFP aid — wheat flour, edible oil, canned meat, fish or cheese and dried skim milk — is strictly rationed on the basis of man-days required to complete the hard work involved, and also sold at 25 per cent of local equivalent prices.

The resulting revenue goes towards helping with the housing crisis, a ram breeding station to improve the quality of the Bedouin's merino-type baki sheep, the expansion of a nursery for fruit trees, and other associated projects.

Most olive seedlings are presently imported from Spain because they have a 22 per cent oil yield compared with the local variety's eight per cent. The aim is to move to self-sufficiency with a nursery output of 300,000 seedlings a year.

The cash income benefits are also not immediate. It is three years before the fig trees start fruiting and a seven-year wait for the olives, during which time they must be constantly watered, but they provide the Bedouin family with an anchor and prospects of improvement.

Average income is difficult to measure, but Mr. Allam estimates that it has improved threefold to \$430 a year as a result of the scheme.

One clear sign of greater prosperity has been a trebling in the region's sheep population to 1.4 million head, creating overstocking problems. Consequently the government has lifted its meat export ban to allow 150,000 sheep a year to be shipped — at \$3 a kilo live — to Saudi Arabia, where the baki is a prized delicacy.

For the future it is intended to extend the settlement programme inland by developing 100-acre range farms, rather than orchards, using more nutritious desert fodder varieties — Financial Times news feature.

Reshaping vocational training for the eighties

AS THE world population heads for over five billion by 1990, demand for training related to employment and careers is only expected to grow.

There is already evidence of a world-wide long-term trend towards gradually building up comprehensive life-long education and training systems as well as other training opportunities throughout working life, due to structural and technological changes that compel individuals to keep abreast of developments and so change careers more than once during their lifetime, a recent International Labour Office (ILO) survey found.

Vocational training is the largest single technical co-operation programme of the ILO and between 1972 and 1981 it accounted for 36.7 per cent of all technical co-operation funds.

To face the challenge of the coming decade, the ILO Training Department has carried out an in-depth review of its vocational training programme. Over 400 representatives of governments, research and training institutions and employers' and workers' organisations were interviewed in 44 countries. 32 of them in the Third World.

Forty representative training

projects were assessed, and the ILO made a joint evaluation with the United Nations Development Programme of training in seven countries.

Key sectors

"One of the most noticeable trends detected in the opinion survey was the strong emphasis countries are placing on sectoral approaches to training," the review states. "All countries are concentrating on ensuring a continuous supply of trained manpower for such key sectors as construction, transport, energy and water as well as for their leading industries, particularly those producing for export."

In view of high unemployment and underemployment, almost all developing countries and some industrialised countries intend to give more attention to vocational training and further training activities which could lead to self-employment and to increased employment and expansion of micro and small-scale enterprises, the review says.

In the Third World, it notes, a large percentage of the population has had no access to education (60 per cent in 1980 according to UNESCO estimates), so "new

contents and methods of training will have to be found to transmit useful skills to large numbers of illiterates, semi-literate and school drop-outs, both in the interest of nation building and for their own self-fulfilment." This, at present, remains an untapped resource.

Though some long-term training activities were considered to be necessary, most interviewees from developing countries stressed that the major emphasis should be on short and specific training courses directly geared to meet immediate needs and relieve skill bottlenecks. Most farmers, rural workers and artisans could not afford to leave their work for long periods of time, but were ready to enrol in multiple short courses if these were directly relevant to their work and if they saw productivity and earnings could be improved in the short term.

Problems

But almost all developing countries faced perennial problems in recruiting, training and retaining personnel responsible for vocational training. "Particularly in the less-developed countries, graduates from instructor training centres were irresistibly attracted by the better salaries and career

prospects offered by industry," the review found. "Almost all developing countries agreed that in the long run only good salaries and working conditions would remedy the situation."

One major problem in many countries arises because vocational training is often considered a second-rate alternative to other educational streams. "Lack of information on the realities of skilled work is one of the main factors that has helped to discredit blue-collar work and consequently vocational training."

But the review adds: "The stigma of blue-collar work does not pose any problem to the very poor with little or no literacy. To have any job at all, they are quite willing to accept work that is dirty, boring, difficult and even dangerous."

Taking into account these and other findings of the review, the ILO has drawn up a comprehensive programme for the eighties, including proposals for a world conference on training.

Boosting opportunities for women is a common concern in all countries, the ILO review states. "In many countries, women's participation in training is limited to a narrow range of occupations for

relatively low level skills and responsibility leading to less pay, job security, mobility and career prospects. The problem is even more serious for disadvantaged groups of women, such as the rural and urban poor."

The ILO also proposes measures to train refugees for self-reliance and to provide skill training for migrants in both industrialised countries and in the developing countries of Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East.

All the countries questioned saw a need for research to help make a realistic assessment of training requirements and to reinforce the ILO's operational activities in this area as well as to build up an inter-regional system for exchange of information in the training field.

Rural development

Developing countries, almost without exception, intend to allocate larger resources to rural development, aimed particularly at meeting the basic needs of the poorest and often largest groups of the population, the review indicated. "Priority areas where vocational training is required are: production, processing and marketing of food; rural ele-

ctrification; fishing; forestry and wood processing; maintenance and repair of rural equipment and machines, including production of simple tools and farm equipment; building and construction of infrastructures; water supply and irrigation and handicrafts," it says.

The ILO has drawn up a wide-ranging package of proposals on vocational training for key sectors, small-scale enterprises, rural areas and the informal sector of artisans and craft workers — considered by most of the people questioned as "one of the major challenges for national training bodies".

All countries expect the ILO to continue its leading international role in vocational training, the review found. But industrialised countries are particularly interested in improving the flow of information, while developing nations put the emphasis on direct technical co-operation. "All developing countries expressed the need for increased international, regional and inter-regional co-operation," the review says.

At its February-March session, the ILO Governing Body discussed the review and approved it as a basis for future development of ILO activities in this field. — ILO features.

Keeping drylands productive marks worldwide desertification sweep

Improving crops such as chickpeas and millet is unglorious work. Yet these and other obscure plants feed those who live in the world's drylands, where 850 million people are threatened by the process of "desertification". An India-based international organisation is struggling to keep the drylands productive.

By Radhakrishna Rao

HYDERABAD, India — Despite the fact that it threatens some 850 million people and an area larger than all Africa, the slow process of "desertification" is not a glamorous global problem.

This is because the processes which turn good land into wasteland involve mostly poor, politically powerless people living on little-known crops such as pigeon peas, losing their topsoil to the steady, undramatic process of erosion. So politicians have been willing to dedicate very little money to the struggle against desertification.

It is appropriate then that one of the leading organisations in this struggle — the International Crops Research Institute for Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) — should also be a low-budget, unglamorous institution.

Based in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad, it is dedicated to research which can improve yields of the five staple crops of the world's semi-arid and arid regions: sorghum, millet, chickpea, pigeon pea and groundnut (pea-

nut). Sorghum and millet are hardy cereal grasses which thrive in dry climates where wheat and rice cannot. Chickpeas and pigeon peas are legumes which, eaten with a cereal, provide all the amino acids humans require.

Because they are largely grown for food rather than for cash, national and international agricultural programmes have paid them scant attention, according to World Bank studies.

But these crops are crucial to survival in the world's drylands. In many such areas, per capita food production has been sinking steadily over the past decade. But these poor farmers cannot afford the fertilisers or irrigation which their wealthier counterparts use to produce cash crops. They rely on unreliable rains to support one crop a year.

To improve their chance, ICRISAT, in conjunction with the Indian Council for Agricultural Research and Andhra Agricultural University, has come up with a new approach to land and water management. The new technique involves a mix of furrowed and unfurrowed patches in fields

which decreases erosion and allows rainy season runoff to be collected in storage tanks for use in the dry season.

Under the best conditions, this system can increase yields fivefold. If all the agricultural fields in the Indian semi-arid zones were to be cultivated in this way, increased production could keep abreast of population growth and generate an extra income of \$800 million, ICRISAT figures.

Another ICRISAT application is a highly efficient bullock-drawn implement called the "Tropicultor". Designed by world renowned French engineer Jean Nolle, whose life mission has been to devise low-cost farm equipment, the Tropicultor can be used to plough, ridge, harrow, sow, fertilise or level ground almost as efficiently as tractor-drawn machinery. A Hyderabad factory is now mass-producing Tropicultor to make it available for dryland farmers.

The germplasm bank of ICRISAT contains 50,000 samples: 17,000 strains of sorghum, 11,255 varieties of millet and 7,000 lines of groundnut. A new ICRISAT millet type promises the farmer a cheap alternative to hybrid millet. It was in ICRISAT's Sahelian research station in Niamey, Niger, that this mildew and mould-resistant variety was developed.



Hoing millet in Niger: Farmers race to get their crop ready for rains which may not come (Earthscan photo)

ICRISAT's research is not just about seeds. The institute has a team of "soilologists" and agronomists in semi-arid farming villages in the Indian states of Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra to study how the people farm and live. Understanding the attitudes and habits of marginal farmers is essential for the success of the campaign against desertification.

So far this campaign has taken inadequate account of the dryland

farmers whose lives and livelihoods are at stake. Government elites, living in cities and concerned with industrialisation and foreign exchange, have given little attention to the rural poor and the loss of land.

In May this year Dr. Mostafa Tolba, executive director of the U.N. Environment Programme, will announce in Nairobi that seven years' efforts to halt the spread of wastelands have been a vir-

tual failure. Land is being lost at an ever-increasing rate, yet there is no shortage of scientific and technical solutions. The real challenge is one of finding methods of improving yields based on locally available materials at costs the subsistence farmer can afford.

ICRISAT's successes may make no "Green Revolution" headlines, but they offer a ray of hope in the war on wastelands. — Earthscan feature.

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McEnroe to face qualifier in French Open 1st round

PARIS (R) — Top seed John McEnroe will have to wait to learn the identity of his first round opponent after being matched against a qualifier in Saturday's French Open Tennis Championship draw.

The Wimbledon Champion, who has seldom been seen at his best on clay in the past, has shown a liking for the surface this year which augurs well for his hopes of being the first American to win the title since Tony Trabert in 1955.

McEnroe is in the same half of the draw as U.S. Open Champion Jimmy Connors, and the two will meet in the semifinals of the singles which begin on Monday if they can surpass last year's efforts when they were both knocked out at the quarter-final stage.

Connors, seeded third, faces compatriot Eric Fromm in the first round, while reigning champion Yannick Noah kicks off his title defence against another American, Mark Dickson.

Noah, who thrilled the nation when he became the first Frenchman to win the title since Marcel Bernard in 1946, is seeded sixth but has been hampered in his preparation by an abdominal muscle strain.

Czechoslovak Ivan Lendl, still chasing his first Grand Slam title, is seeded second and takes on American Matt Mitchell.

Bernard, who made the draw at Roland Garros, gave Sweden's fourth seeded Mats Wilander,

champion in 1982 and runner-up last year, what should be an easy passage when he paired him with Australian Wally Masur.

Fellow Swede Henrik Sundstrom, Wilander's conqueror in the Monte Carlo Open final last month and again in Hamburg, takes on Chile's Alvaro Fillol.

In-form Spaniard Juan Aguilera, victor in Hamburg, was paired against Miloslav Mecir of Czechoslovakia and is set to meet Wilander in the last 16, if the seedings hold good.

Martina Navratilova, seeking to complete a Grand Slam of Wimbledon, Australian, U.S. and French titles, was drawn against Nathalie Tauziat of France, who qualified with a 'Wild Card'.

Philippe Chatrier, President of both International and French Tennis Federations, said the two-week tournament had attracted all but five of the top 20 men and all but four of the top 20 women. "Never have the French Championships been so strong," he said.

While Navratilova bids for the Grand Slam, chief rival Chris Evert-Lloyd sets her sights on a sixth French title which would beat the record she shares with

Australian Margaret Court.

The number two seed opens against West German Heidi Esterlich, while third-seeded Hana Mandlikova, in the same half of the draw as former compatriot Navratilova, tunes up with a match against South Korean Duk Hee Lee.

Fourth seed Andrea Jaeger was paired with fellow American Jamie Goldar.

The women's draw was made by West German Steffi Graf and France's Pascale Paradis two of the tournament's youngest players.

At the other end of the age scale, 37-year-old Romanian Ilie Nastase, French Open champion in 1973 but a 'Wild Card' entry nowadays, was given a tough first round draw against experienced Jose Higueras. The Spaniard, seeded 12th, reached the semifinals last year.

Olympic chief to fly to Moscow in last bid to reverse boycott

LAUSANNE, Switzerland (R) — The head of the Olympic movement, Juan Antonio Samaranch, is to fly to Moscow next week in a last-ditch effort to reverse the Soviet-led boycott of the Los Angeles Games.

Highly-placed sources in Lausanne, headquarters of the International Olympic Committee (IOC), said the IOC president would fly to Moscow in the middle of next week, though it was not yet clear on which day he would travel.

He will be accompanied by Mario Vazquez Rana, President of the Association of National Olympic Committees (ANOC), and Primo Nebiolo, President of the Association of Summer Olympic Sports Federations, the sources added.

There was no immediate indication whether Samaranch would be making his visit at the request of Soviet leader Konstantin Che-

renko or whether he planned to travel on his own initiative.

He sought an early meeting with Chernenko soon after the Soviet withdrawal from the Los Angeles Games was announced on May 8 but received no official response to his request.

A total of 11 nations have joined the Soviet Union in pulling out of the games, citing concern for the safety of their athletes in Los Angeles.

The sources would not say whether Samaranch planned to have talks with Chernenko or with Marat Gramov, head of the Soviet National Olympic Committee.

After an emergency meeting here last week attended by the IOC, the Los Angeles organisers and the Soviet committee, Gramov said Moscow's decision was irrevocable.

There was no sign of optimism at the IOC headquarters Saturday. The sources quoted Samaranch as saying: "I'm very realistic. But I said we would fight until the last minute and we shall."

Samaranch, a former Spanish ambassador in Moscow, returned to Lausanne on Thursday from talks in Prague with sports officials from 11 communist countries.

The nine members of the IOC executive board were gathering in Lausanne for a three-day meeting starting on Monday.

Peter Ueberroth, head of the Los Angeles Organising Committee, will also attend.

The board will meet representatives of the international sports federations who must now revise the Los Angeles Games schedule and entry lists in the absence of the Soviet Union and other nations.

Maradona's future with Barcelona in doubt

BARCELONA, Spain (R) — Barcelona's signing of former England soccer international Terry Venables as their new coach has prompted speculation that Argentine striker Diego Maradona may leave the Spanish club to play in Italy.

Venables, 41, currently the manager of London side Queen's Park Rangers, signed a two-year contract with Barcelona's directors Friday night after a week of detailed negotiations.

"I've signed for an important club, which, like me, is very ambitious," Venables later told reporters.

But news of his signing was coolly received by Barcelona's eight-million-dollar star Maradona who is believed to be unhappy about the recent decision to quit by fellow-Argentine Cesar Luis Menotti, the club's current manager.

"Personally, the English style of football doesn't suit me," Maradona was quoted as saying Friday.

A press spokesman for Maradona, whose contract still has four years to run, told Reuters a representative of Italian club Naples would meet Barcelona president Jose Luis Nunez Saturday to offer between seven and eight million dollars for Maradona.

But a Barcelona spokesman said: "We have no interest in transferring him."

But Maradona has kept reporters guessing about his future.

"There's been a lot of speculation which is nonsense but it is possible I could leave Barcelona," he said Friday before leaving Spain with his team for a tour of the U.S. and Canada.

The stocky striker has come under fire for his record this season which included several absences through injury and a three-month match ban for his part in an ugly brawl between opposing players in a cup final earlier this month.

Barcelona lost the cup to Basque side Athletic Bilbao who also clinched the League Championship this season.

The arrival of Venables, who has used some of the techniques of European soccer to take Queen's Park Rangers from the English second division to the first, is expected to bring some changes to Barcelona's training methods.

Jordan beats Iraq 2-1 in polo match

ZARQA (J.T.) — The Jordanian Polo team beat the visiting Iraqi team 2-1 in a match held at Zarqa Saturday. The Iraqi team which arrived in Amman Tuesday is considered one of the best polo teams in the Arab World. The Iraqis are expected to play other matches during their stay in Jordan.

Defending champion Temesvari pulls out of Italian Open

PERUGIA, Italy (R) — Defending champion Andrea Temesvari pulled out of the Italian Women's Open Tennis Championship because of a back injury Saturday, giving her opponent Chris Evert-Lloyd a place in the semifinals.

The Hungarian teenager's withdrawal was a further blow to a tournament which has been severely disrupted by unseasonal rain and wind.

Lloyd is to play her semifinal against fellow American Lisa Bonder, who beat Italian Raf-

faella Reggi 6-3, 6-3 in their quarter-final.

Reggi said she had spent a restless night because of toothache and this appeared to affect her performance.

Canadian Carling Bassett, 16, had an easy 6-1, 6-2 win over eighth seed Yvonne Vermaak of South Africa and now plays the winner of the quarter-final between fifth seed Manuela Maleeva of Bulgaria and Romanian Virginia Ruzici.

The two East European players were trying for the third time to complete their match which has been twice interrupted by rain.

Ruzici, the 12th seed, led 4-0 in the first set before losing it in a tiebreak which Maleeva won 12-10 on her fifth set point. They were 2-2 in the second set when a downpour sent the players running for cover.

The singles event is at least one day behind schedule and the final, scheduled for Sunday, may not take place before Monday.

The doubles competition is even worse hit, with two quarter-final matches still to be played.

Spanish Grand Prix called off

MADRID (R) — The Spanish Grand Prix motor race, scheduled for the streets of Fuengirola on October 21, has been cancelled because of lack of time to prepare the new circuit, the Spanish Automobile Federation said Saturday.

A federation spokesman said a meeting between the federation, Fuengirola's town council and the race organisers agreed Friday that the planned circuit through the southern Mediterranean resort would not be ready.

A Grand Prix is planned there for October 13 next year.

The International Motor Sport Federation (FISA) gave the go-ahead for the Fuengirola race to be included in the 1984 calendar on condition that the necessary work was carried out on the circuit to satisfy safety standards. It was to be the last event of the World Championship season.

Fuengirola's mayor Sancho Adam told reporters the expected heavy influx of tourists during July and August would make it impossible for the work to be completed in time.

The last Spanish Grand Prix was held on Madrid's Jarama circuit in 1981 but problems over financing and safety prevented the event from continuing.

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N. Ireland wins last ever British Championship

GLASGOW (R) — A magnificent 36th minute equaliser by Arsenal striker Tony Woodcock earned England a 1-1 draw against Scotland in the 102nd international between the two nations at Hampden Park here Saturday.

Woodcock's glorious left-foot shot high into the net from 22 metres cancelled out Mark McGhee's 13th minute opener and left England narrowly ahead 40-39 with 23 draws in the world's oldest international soccer fixture.

The result left Northern Ireland

as winners of the last-ever British Championship. They finished top on goal difference after all four countries finished level on three points.

With Wales filling second place, England and Scotland, who jointly decided they were no longer interested in playing their so-called weaker neighbours, were left languishing in the embarrassing role of also-rans.

Ironically, the two teams produced one of the best internationals of recent years despite both being weakened by injuries

and withdrawals.

The largely inexperienced England side enjoyed the bulk of pressure in the first half but had to withstand a tremendous assault after the interval as the Scots ignored the driving rain to lay siege on Peter Shilton's goal.

Roared on by almost the entire 75,000 crowd — England's infamous followers are always conspicuous by their absence in Glasgow — Scotland created more than enough chances to pull level overall and clinch the championship in the process. Scotland's opener had "made in

Aberdeen" stamped all over it. Little Gordon Strachan crossed from the right and McGhee out-jumped Graham Roberts to head powerfully last Shilton. Sadly for Aberdeen, Strachan and McGhee will be playing for Manchester United and Hamburg respectively next season.

England's equaliser was even better. Woodcock received the ball wide on the right, cut inside Willie Miller and unleashed a ferocious left-footer from the edge of the box which flew high into the net past the despairing arms of Jim Leighton.

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FIRST RACE

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Time 1 minute: 13.55 seconds

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1ST:	Raddad	Ghaleb Haddadin
2ND:	Fawar	Bahjat Fanous
3RD:	Abu Samra	Sami Haddadin

SECOND RACE

Beginner horses distance 1000 metres
Time: 1:10

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST:	Zamzam	Nidal B.Hadeed
2ND:	Saif El Nasr	A.L. Hadeed
3rd	Nayfeh	Ghaleb Haddadin

THIRD RACE

Beginner horses, distance 1600 metres
Time: 2:03

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST	Apollo	Bahjat Fanous
2ND	Azeezah	Sami Haddadin
3RD	Sheemah	Nidal B.Hadeed

FOURTH RACE

Beginner horses, distance 1600 metres
Time: 1:58

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST	T. Al Ababeel	H.H. Late Sharif
2ND	Al Hadlah	Nasser Stables
3RD	Waddah	Nidal B. Hadeed

FIFTH RACE

3rd and 2nd class horses distance 1000 metres
Time: 1:10

	HORSE	OWNER
1ST	Al Gawi	Mamdouh
2ND	Wisam	Al Hadeed
3RD	D. El Aswad	Ghaleb Haddadin

CAMEL RACE

Distance 2200 metres

	CAMEL	OWNER
1ST	Shakran	A.M. Jalal
2ND	Wadhan	Mousa Ali
3RD	Asryah	Rbaye'e Sleiman



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Performances: 12-3-5:30-8

661 anti-strike miners win 'right-to-work' injunctions

LONDON (AP) — A high court judge branded the British coalminers' unbalanced strike call unfair to those who did not agree to it and granted right-to-work injunctions to 661 miners who face often violent picket lines outside their Nottinghamshire mines.

Mr. Arthur Scargill, leader of the National Union of Mineworkers, attacked the ruling as "consistent with over a century of anti-working class judgment to weaken the power of the British labour and trade union movement."

The judge, Sir Robert Megarry, banned union officials from instructing miners from Pye Hill and Sherwood Collieries in Nottinghamshire to strike, from directing them not to cross picket lines and from penalising them for defying Mr. Scargill's strike call.

He said the 11-week-old strike came as close as possible to breaching union rules which require that miners approve any strike call by majority vote.

Union officials maintained the strike was voluntary and therefore democratic without a vote. Critics said the union officials were afraid a strike vote would be defeated because of the state-run national coal board's favourable lay-off terms.

Eighty per cent of Britain's 183,000 miners obeyed Mr. Scargill's call to strike March 12 over the coal board's plans to cut 2,000 jobs and close 20 to 25 unprofitable mines in the next 12 months.

The NCB, which is offering miners lay-off payments of up to £1,000 (\$1,380) for every year worked, maintains that the cutbacks will reduce Britain's coal surplus and end annual government subsidies to the industry.

Miners' leaders and the NCB said they will hold a second round of talks next week.

German unions, employers remain firm towards strike

BONN (R) — Both the West German metalworkers' union and employers said Saturday neither would give way in forthcoming talks, seeking an end to a dispute over a shorter working week that has severely disrupted car production.

Two days of talks between the 2.5-million strong I.G. Metall Union and the employers' federation, Gesamtmetall, ended Friday with no compromise in sight, but fresh negotiations were set next Tuesday.

"I am optimistic that in the talks we will produce a solution to the dispute that would maintain the (present) 40-hour week," Gesamtmetall Executive Director Dieter Kirchner said in a newspaper interview Saturday.

"The employers have left us two alternatives, either capitulate or fight," said I.G. Metall Chairman Hans Mayr in a separate statement. The union says a 35-hour week would create more than a million new jobs while employers say it would increase costs and make German exports uncompetitive.

The quarter of a million people made idle by the strikes is expected to swell to 300,000 next week, if employers carry out their threat to enforce lock-outs in the Frankfurt area.

Dubai businessman loses formal control over bank

DUBAI (R) — A shareholders' meeting Saturday stripped from Dubai entrepreneur Abdul Wahab Galadari formal control of the Union Bank of the Middle East, which was saved from collapse in a government bail-out last November.

The meeting, the first to be held since the bail-out, formally ratified a re-organisation of the bank necessary after the Dubai government last month acquired a 73 per cent stake in the bank, which was formerly controlled by Mr. Galadari.

Heavy lending to Mr. Galadari and his companies was a major reason behind the government

intervention.

Ahmad Al Tayer, minister of state for finance in the government of the United Arab Emirates and bank chairman, told the meeting the adverse impact of the Galadari loans would be "substantially eliminated" from the balance sheet this year.

The bank also made public its first balance sheet since the bail-out, showing a sharp drop in assets to 3.1 billion dirhams (\$842 million) from 4.3 billion dirhams (\$1.2 billion) at the end of 1982.

Advances and other receivables slipped to 2.3 billion dirhams (\$627 million) from 3.3 billion (\$900 million) in the same period.

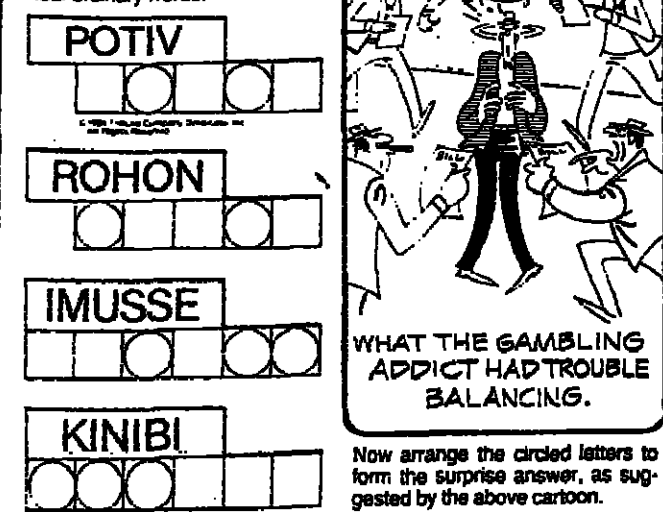
THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Do you realize how much we'd save on house paint, if we let our lawn grow 12 feet tall?"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Answer here: (Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: FEINT BATCH AGENDA BEWAIL

Answer: He was always going around in circles because he thought he was this — A BIG WHEEL

Dominica breaks off talks with IMF

SANTO DOMINGO, Dominican Republic (AP) — The government, already shaken by recent food price riots, has broken off negotiations with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) because of the fund's insistence that gasoline prices be increased.

President Salvador Jorge Blanco, making the announcement late Thursday, said the government's decision could result in a final break with international creditors at a time when it badly needs to renegotiate its \$2.4-billion foreign debt.

"This decision obliges us to austerity and puts in danger international credits and the renegotiation of our foreign debt," the president said.

He said he rejected the IMF's condition that gasoline and other petroleum products be shifted to what is called the "parallel" rate of exchange of nearly three Dominican pesos to one U.S. dollar, compared to the "official" rate of one peso to one dollar.

While negotiating with the IMF in April, Mr. Jorge Blanco shifted most other imports to the higher parallel rate and increased prices of basic foods by as much as 20 per cent. The move sparked four days of riots beginning April 23 that claimed 54 lives.

"The Monetary Fund has presented difficult conditions in the difficult and long conversations that we have maintained with this institution," Mr. Jorge Blanco said.

Vatican agrees to pay Ambrosiano creditors

VATICAN CITY (AP) — The Vatican confirmed Saturday that it had agreed to pay creditors of Banco Ambrosiano but said it does not mean the Holy See accepts responsibility for the bank's collapse.

An agreement to cover bad debts by Banco Ambrosiano was signed Friday in Geneva, Switzerland, between the bank's foreign creditors, its liquidators and the Vatican Bank.

The Vatican confirmed that it will make a "voluntary contribution" to the bank's creditors. It did not say how much money was involved, but banking sources in London and Rome said the Holy See will pay \$250 million to Banco Ambrosiano creditors.

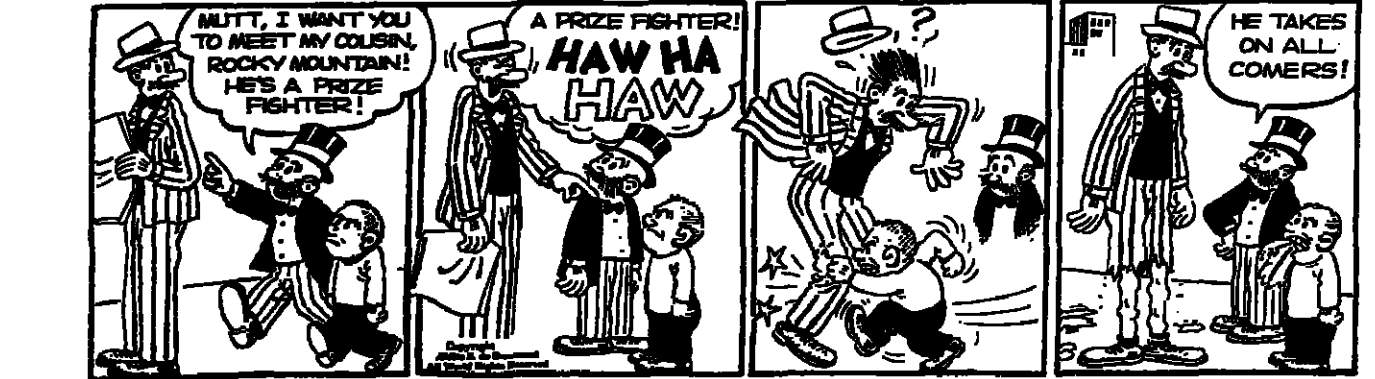
The communiqué said the agreement "confirms" that the Vatican Bank "had no responsibility for the ruin of Banco Ambrosiano, in which it found itself involuntarily involved."

Banco Ambrosiano, once Italy's largest private bank, collapsed in 1982 when bank examiners discovered \$1.2 billion in bad loans.

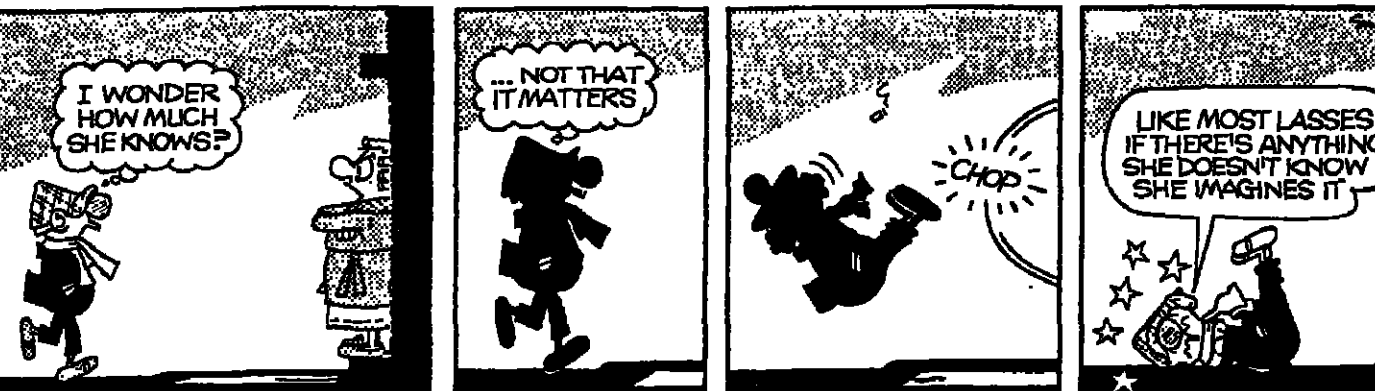
Peanuts



Mutt 'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Gold price reaches \$390 an ounce in U.S. markets

NEW YORK (AP) — The price of gold spurted to a two-month high of \$389.70 an ounce Friday as concerns about world oil supplies and the stability of the banking system in the United States led nervous traders to buy precious metals.

The dollar turned in a mixed performance in quiet trading and dealers said currency markets calmed down from Thursday's hectic pace, when the dollar plunged following unsubstantiated rumors new problems at big U.S. banks.

Mr. Leslie Deak, president of the New York Currency and precious metals firm Deak-Perera, said bullion's rise of more than \$11 an ounce was a sign of trader dissatisfaction with the dollar.

In recent months, he noted, traders had rushed to buy dollars rather than another traditional haven on gold, in times of political and financial unrest.

Dealers said that despite assurances from the White House, U.S. Treasury Department and

week at \$389.70 a troy ounce, the highest close since the \$389.80 of March 29. A week earlier, gold closed at \$378.30 an ounce.

In after-hours activity at New York's Republic National Bank, bullion was bid at \$389.50 an ounce as of 4 p.m., up \$11.25 from Thursday and a gain of \$11.50 from the end of last week.

In foreign exchange dealings, "the market was calmer than Thursday, returning to something like normalcy," said David Palmer, a senior vice president at First American Bank of New York.

By day's end in the United States, the dollar had climbed to 231.80 Japanese yen from 230.45 yen Thursday. The British pound slipped to \$1.38275 from \$1.3835 Thursday. Other dollar rates in New York as of 4 p.m., compared with late rates Thursday, included: 2.72175 West German marks, up from 2.7090; 2.2420 Swiss francs, down from 2.2452; 8.3750 French francs, up from 8.3530 and 1.29425 Canadian dollars, down from 1.29550.

Iraq's claims of another attack on Arabian Gulf shipping Friday contributed to the run-up in the price of gold, traders said. With insurance rates on Gulf shipping raised again, the oil minister of Saudi Arabia said he feared the West "might panic" and the key oil route would close for lack of insurance.

On the New York commodity exchange, gold bullion for current delivery jumped \$11.20 to end the

bankers that no new financial problems had surfaced at major American banks, traders were wary of unsettled conditions in the financial system and were reluctant to buy dollars.

Gold, meantime, finally snapped out of the doldrums and rose steadily throughout the day.

A dealer at a European bank in Tokyo attributed the dollar's late recovery there to Soviet purchases of dollars for marks.

A fall in Wall Street's Dow Jones index for the sixth day in a row and the U.S. bank rumors pushed the Tokyo share index down 109.62 to 10,142.10. It had risen 228.26 Thursday.

In Australia the Sydney share index closed 14.5 points down at 675, its lowest in six months, with more than one billion Australian dollars (same U.S.) wiped-off the value of bank shares. The market has declined 50 points this week.

Sydney dealers said most of the selling orders came from Hong Kong, where investors had severe case of the jitters after Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping said China had the right to station troops in the colony after it reverts to China in 1997. The announcement reversed initial gains on the territory's exchanges and the index closed 20.21 points down at 902.79.

On the London Stock Market, the depression of the past week persisted although the Financial Times 30-share industrial index was up 2.3 points at noon to 828.7.

Bank shares, hard hit Thursday when the market fell 21.2 points, were among the weakest sectors.

In the last 21 days, the widely watched FT index has dropped more than 90 points from its peak of 922.8 reached on May 4. The government bond market is also shaky due to worries that interest rates may have to move higher to help the fragile pound sterling — which was still weak Friday at around \$1.3840.

Gold derived some benefit from the dollar's weaker tone.

After the dollar plummeted in New York from 2.7688 marks on Wednesday to 2.7090 marks by the close Thursday, the American currency slipped lower on Asian exchanges before showing signs of recovery late in the day. "No one thinks large U.S. banks could go bust, but the misgivings dominated the market," said Mr. Wat-

Indian traders strike to press sales tax abolition

NEW DELHI (AP) — Business activity ground to a virtual halt Friday as traders throughout India staged a day-long strike to demand abolition of the sales tax, reports said.

The United News of India (UNI) news agency reported that the main markets in New Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras shut down in response to the strike call of the Federation of All-India Traders Association.

In some areas, hotels and restaurants also were closed. Stock exchanges in Bombay, New Delhi and Madras, however, were open, UNI said.

The federation said the shutdown was called to pressure the state chief ministers' conference, scheduled to begin here on Monday, to replace the sales tax with excise duty.

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, MAY 27, 1984

YOUR DAILY Horoscope from the Carroll Righter Institute

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Until noon, you can be rebellious of limitations and delays in being able to put your ideas across. You are imaginative and see the right way to accomplish what you desire.

ARIES (Mar. 21 to Apr. 19) You are frustrated in the morning and should get control of yourself quickly. Get into philosophical studies that are helpful.

TAURUS (Apr. 20 to May 20) Not a good day for seeing partners who are busy, so turn to more personal affairs and handle them very well.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 21) Meditate quietly in the morning, then be with good friends for the amusements that are mutually liked. Be happy.

MOON CHILDREN (June 22 to Jul. 21) Listen to the idea a friend has to offer and forget that gamble you want to take which could be dangerous.

LEO (Jul. 22 to Aug. 21) Do not permit some home situations to keep you from some outside celebration that is important. Drive with care.

VIRGO (Aug. 22 to Sept. 22) You have some very good ideas that should be put into action, so don't let little duties stop you.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22) Talk over with an expert how you can better your monetary position now. Be happy at home with your mate and stop coming.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21) You have an obsession about an activity that should be forgotten, so listen to wise advice of an associate.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21) Avoid one who has given you trouble in the past and do something thoughtful for those who have done you favors.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 20) You have already made plans for a happy time so don't permit a friend to get you involved in some other affairs.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 21 to Feb. 19) Get busy at whatever you most enjoy doing and don't let worldly or home affairs bother you. Try not to spend too much money.

PISCES (Feb. 20 to Mar. 20) Store in mind clever ideas about the coming week's activities and then handle some affair nearby.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BORN TODAY ... he or she will have one-sided ideas about almost everything, so teach early not to be prejudiced and to study all sides of any situation before reaching definite decisions, otherwise your progeny's potential will be greatly lessened.

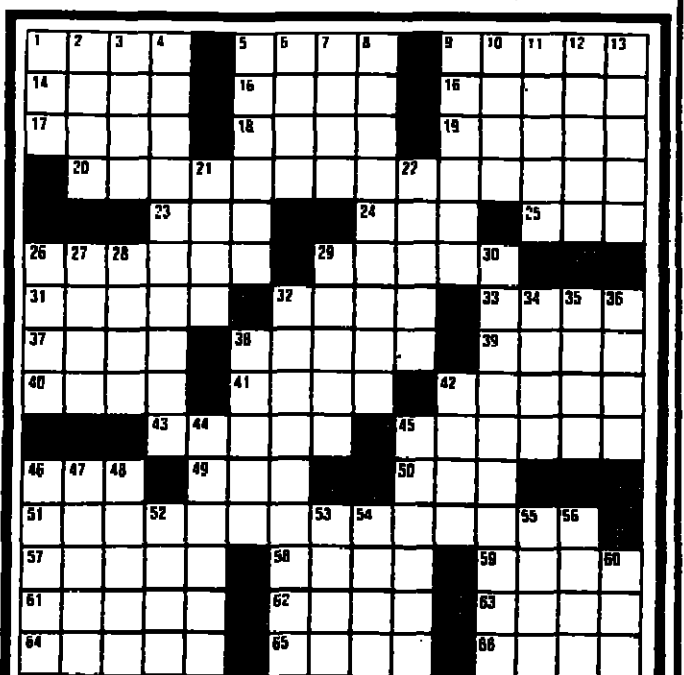
"The Stars impel; they do not compel." What you make of your life is largely up to you!
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THE Daily Crossword by Emory H. Cain

ACROSS	29 Lead	50 Depot abbr.	13 Look of
1 Thick	31 They work	51 See 20A	derision
5 Persist	32 Moved with	57 Angers	21 Mental
tediously	ease	58 Logan of	facilities
9 Classes	33 Lat. abbr.	59 Blade	22 Pays
14 Rabbit	37 "To — and	61 Old-woman-	attention
15 Kazan the	a bone..."	ish	26 Extent
director	38 Impositions	62 Chester —	father
16 — the hole	39 Coin	Arthur	28 Certain
17 Depraved	40 Hawaii's	63 See birds	horse
18 Perjurer	state bird	64 High and	29 Blind
19 Jessica	41 — de-pont	low	components
or Hope	(bridge-	65 Intent	30 Blushing
20 With 51A,	head)	66 Ship	32 Show sorrow
quote by	42 Brother	chains	34 Fatigue
John Locke	of Moses		35 Otis of
23 Jap. money	43 Crucifixes		baseball
24 Jap. money	45 Estimate		36 Telescope
25 Linear abbr.	46 Rites.		part
26 Elf	49 — mater		38 Impassive

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

STUDIOS	APIS	SCAR
WILLIE	PICT	ALVA
ALLIES	VIOL	NEAT
WYDIPPA	SILAPDAISH	
SHRIMP	PIERCE	KENTS
PERCY	OPIMUM	ERA
OTIX	ANDSE	FLOG
TIRE	SWELL	PILATE
SARDINE	CHLOP	
CLASH	TRAP	ENJOIN
AGID	AGRA	CARRE
LETS	LEON	ECLAT
ERIS	EDINA	SKYVES



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1 politician killed, 2 police men injured

Sikhs continue violent attacks in Punjab

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — A Hindu politician has been killed and two railway policemen wounded in Sikh extremist attacks in India's northern state of Punjab, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported Saturday.

It said the latest attack occurred when gunmen opened fire at a railway station near the Punjab town of Firozpur early Saturday, wounding two railway policemen. The incident happened as a passenger train bound for New Delhi arrived at the station.

The shooting followed Friday night's murder of a local leader of the militant Suraksha Samiti, or Hindu protection force, at his home in the same town near the Pakistan border.

A curfew was clamped on the area after the leader, Mr. Dev Rattan Tuli, was gunned down by two men who then took refuge in a house and exchanged fire with security forces, PTI said.

The gunmen both surrendered when asked they would be flushed out with grenades, it added. During interrogation they admitted to having links with a group based in the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, it added. PTI did not identify the group.

Security forces have not so far pursued extremists into the sprawling temple complex for fear of provoking further unrest and out

of respect for Sikh religious customs.

A campaign by the Sikhs' main party, the Akali Dal, for religious rights and concessions has been marked by Sikh-Hindu attacks in which nearly 250 people have died in six months.

Party leader Harchand Singh Longowal has called for a stepping-up of the campaign by launching a civil disobedience campaign next month. It includes plans to stop food grain from leaving the farming state, known as India's breadbasket.

The agency said five Sikh high priests will next week resume efforts to patch up differences between Mr. Longowal and hardline Sikh preacher Jamail Singh Bhindranwale.

Mr. Bhindranwale, who lives in the Golden Temple grounds, has been named by officials as a member of the extremists' high command.

PTI said a home-made bomb was thrown at a cinema near Patiala town Friday night and people described as terrorists set fire to another railway station, but no casualties were reported.

A grenade was also thrown at a military van near the border town of Gurdaspur Friday. No-one was hurt, PTI said.

Death toll reaches 221 in Bombay

The death toll for 10 days of bitter fighting between Hindus and Muslims mounted to 221 Saturday as two people were stabbed to death in India's major commercial port city.

Authorities, meanwhile, said India's worst communal rioting in several years had been brought under control through extensive deployment of army troops.

Police said three incidents of arson and stone throwing were reported Saturday in Bombay, but the overall situation was quiet, and tension appeared to be easing.

Two people were killed to death and another seriously injured in a communal clash early Saturday in northern Bombay, police said. Police rushed to the area to disperse the rioters, arresting one.

Hundreds of people have been injured in the religious violence that broke out May 17 and thousands more arrested.

Late Friday, police fired into the air to disperse the fighting groups who clashed in two districts in this city of 8.5 million. No injuries were reported.

About 6,000 army soldiers marched in shows of strength through curfew-bound streets of Bombay's riot-scattered districts. The army also patrolled Bhindranwale, Thane and seven other nearby towns.

Nicaraguan opposition threatens election boycott

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP) — Opposition political party leaders say they will boycott the presidential campaign unless the leftist Sandinista government lifts the state of emergency that imposes censorship and restricts political rallies.

The decree was issued March 15, 1982, as a government response to increasing activity by U.S.-backed anti-government rebels trying to topple the government. Although that activity has increased since then, the government says it expects to lift the decree before campaigning starts Aug. 8 for the Nov. 4 elections.

The Nicaraguan Democratic Co-ordinator, a group of opposition labour, political and business organisations, said in a statement it "would not register candidates or take part in the elections if the national state of emergency is not lifted." The opposition Conservative and Liberal Independent parties took the

same position.

"We're not asking for the best conditions, only for minimal acceptable conditions for holding elections," said Mr. Virgili Ogodoy, a former labour minister who quit to take over the Liberal Independent Party.

He said in an interview it is essential that opposition parties have access to the media.

Opposition leaders said there was no way of telling how many parties would run candidates for president, vice president and the 90-seat national legislature.

The registry of candidates opened Friday and was to close July 25. Voters will have four days starting July 27 to register.

The last presidential election here, in 1974, was widely viewed as a fraudulent charade to perpetuate the Somoza family's lock on the government, which it did until the Sandinistas toppled Mr. Anastasio Somoza in July, 1979, after a bloody civil war.

Bonn wants NATO to repeat 'signal' to Soviet Union

BONN (R) — West Germany will urge its North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) allies meeting in Washington next week to send another "signal" to Moscow of their readiness to talk at any time, anywhere, about arms control, West German diplomatic sources said Friday.

The sources said Bonn wants the final communiqué of the regular Spring meeting of Atlantic alliance foreign ministers to repeat NATO's "Brussels signal" of last year and stress the desire for better East-West relations.

Apart from the possibility of a "Washington signal", the sources

said they expect the meeting to discuss strengthening the European pillar of the alliance.

They repeated that Bonn did not take seriously suggestions made recently by former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger that the NATO European command should be led by a European.

U.S. pressure for a bigger rise in European defence spending and the European allies' desire for a bigger share of NATO's arms business — now running seven to one in favour of the U.S. — would also figure prominently on the agenda, the West German sources said.

Australian foreign minister in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Australian Foreign Minister Bill Hayden arrived in Moscow Saturday for the first high-level dialogue between the two countries since the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan.

Australian officials said Mr. Hayden, who will spend a week in the Soviet Union, would meet Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko on Monday to discuss international affairs and the development of bilateral relations.

The visit was arranged after Mr. Hayden declared in January that Canberra wanted a more productive relationship with Moscow after four years of strain.

The previous government of former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser imposed sanctions on the Soviet Union after it sent troops

into Afghanistan and the Soviet press maintained a steady barrage of attacks on his administration.

Relations deteriorated further last year when the Labour government of Prime Minister Bob Hawke expelled a Soviet diplomat for spying.

Mr. Hayden, who has been touring Europe, arrived in Moscow from Budapest and was met at the airport by Deputy Foreign Minister Nikita Ryzhov.

Australian diplomats said they were not expecting a meeting between Mr. Hayden and Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko.

The relatively junior level of the minister who welcomed Mr. Hayden indicated that the Kremlin was not planning a full-scale programme for him involving talks

with Mr. Chernenko.

Officials said Mr. Hayden would discuss East-West disarmament with Mr. Gromyko and was also expected to voice concern over the continued Soviet presence in Afghanistan and Vietnam's involvement in Kampuchea.

They said the minister would also raise humanitarian issues and take up the case of several Soviet families eager to emigrate to the West.

When Mr. Hayden was last in Moscow as opposition leader in 1979 he passed over a list of 50 Jewish families who had been denied exit visas and appealed to the authorities to take a more lenient attitude towards them.

Pakistan arrests leaders to thwart opposition meeting

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan's military government has arrested two politicians and barred at least four others from internal travel in an attempt to stop an opposition meeting planned for Monday.

Until the government action Thursday night, all six had been preparing for a meeting of the banned Movement for the Restoration of Democracy (MRD) in Peshawar which aimed to work out a strategy for opposing elections promised by next March, they told Reuters.

The MRD announced after its last meeting on May 9 that it would put up strong resistance to the polls, which it rejects as a scheme to keep General Mohammad Zia-ul-Haq's government in power.

The government slapped a total ban on political reporting by the press on the same evening as the MRD issued the statement, ensuring that increasingly outspoken newspapers would not carry it on Friday.

Meanwhile, Gen. Zia said in Karachi Thursday night he thought a politically-motivated plan was behind the rising tide of crime in the southern province of Sind.

Five policemen were killed by bandits in rural Sind Thursday, the scene last year of bloody anti-government protests led by the MRD.

The convenor or head of the MRD, Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan, told reporters in Islamabad Friday that Gen. Zia was maligning politicians and political parties, which he outlawed in 1979, to escape blame for the crime wave.

He said political polarisation in Sind was driving some people to call for "Sindhu desh," an independent Sindh homeland, and warned: "If moderate leaders are not taken into confidence, extreme elements are likely to come forward."

The two politicians arrested in Karachi were Iqbal Haider, assistant secretary-general of the MRD, and Mushtaq Mirza Sind, president of Nasrullah Khan's Pakistan Democratic Party (PDP), the sources said.

MRD secretary-general Khawaja Khairuddin and Sherbaz Khan Mazari, head of the National Democratic Party (NDP), were both banned from travelling to the North West Frontier Province (NWFP) for three months, they said.

Ceausescu to visit Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu, who has defied a Soviet bloc boycott of the Los Angeles Olympics, will fly to Moscow on June 4 for talks in the Kremlin, East European sources said Saturday.

Mr. Ceausescu is due to spend one day in the Soviet capital and will meet president Konstantin Chernenko, the sources said. He last held formal talks with a Soviet leader three years ago.

Romania said on Thursday that it would not join a Soviet-led boycott of the Olympics. It is the only Soviet ally which has refused to follow Moscow in pulling out of the games.

The sources said Mr. Ceausescu's trip to Moscow was arranged before Romania's Olympic decision was announced but that the issue was bound to be a contentious theme at the talks.

They said the visit had been planned originally to smooth out any potential disputes in advance of a Communist economic summit in Moscow which is due to start on June 12.

Mr. Ceausescu has long pursued a relatively independent foreign policy and has frequently angered the Kremlin by breaking ranks with its Soviet bloc allies on major issues.

The summit of the Comecon trading alliance has been postponed several times in the past few years and East European diplomats say it usually foundered over differences between Moscow and Bucharest.

Western diplomats in Moscow said they had heard of plans to put off the meeting yet again and hold it in September.

The East European sources said they had not heard of any change in plan.

They said the Kremlin was nervous that Mr. Ceausescu might disrupt a summit by making last-minute demands for economic concessions from Moscow and had asked him to attend bilateral talks beforehand "so he does not spring any surprises".

Romania has been demanding greater supplies of Soviet oil at the same preferential rates enjoyed by other East European states. At present Bucharest has to pay for most of its oil deliveries from Moscow in dollars.

Another contentious issue likely to arise at the June 4 talks is the sifting of new Soviet missiles in East Germany and Czechoslovakia in retaliation against the arrival of U.S. cruise and Pershing - 2 rockets in the West.

Romania has condemned the Soviet deployments in much the same way as it has denounced the Western nuclear buildup.

Marcos vows to fight Communist subversives

MANILA (R) — Philippines President Ferdinand Marcos signalled Saturday that his first move after last week's parliamentary elections would be a crack-down on what he described as Communist subversion.

"Either we go to bed with the Communist Party or we fight them," Mr. Marcos told a news conference, his first with foreign correspondents in nearly a year.

He said he was concerned by a recent wave of violence. But now that parliamentary polls were over "we can attend to the subversives and terrorists," he said. "Let us see how they stand up to our regular troops."

"Our very democracy and our republic are being challenged and we must close our ranks to meet this threat," he added.

His ruling New Society Movement (KBL) suffered unexpected defeats in the May 14 election and Mr. Marcos said he was disappointed by the results.

Latest official figures give the KBL 90 of the 183 elected seats and opposition groups and independents 54. Results from 39 seats are still awaited.

The KBL campaign in metropolitan Manila, where the opposition won a clear majority, was run by the president's wife Imelda.

Mr. Marcos attributed the setbacks to "black propaganda" that had overwhelmed the legitimate press in the Philippines. He did not elaborate.

Opposition groups led by the United Nationalist Democratic Organisation have accused the KBL of cheating their way out of a majority in the national assembly.

Mr. Marcos said he would resist any attempt to weaken his law-making powers that have been attacked by the opposition as oppressive. He said they were not oppressive and were needed to fight terrorism or deal with urgent matters.



Millions affected by Bangladesh floods

DHAKA (R) — At least ten million people have been affected by floods across wide areas of Bangladesh over the past three weeks, a government minister said Saturday. Minister for Food, Relief and Rehabilitation Abdul Gaffar Mahmood said the floods hit the country's northern belt and destroyed nearly 100,000 tonnes of paddy. He said the floods and a drought last month had caused a shortfall by about 300,000 tonnes of the current year's foodgrain production target of 16.1 million tonnes.

Sweden registers Soviet nuclear explosion

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The seismological institute of Uppsala University recorded early Saturday a strong underground nuclear explosion in the semipalatinsk test site in northern Kazakhstan in the Soviet Union. The blast occurred at 5:20 a.m. (03:20 GMT) and had a Richter magnitude of 6.8, said Mr. Rutger Weststrom of the Uppsala University, 70 kilometres north of Stockholm. He said the explosion was the fourth with a magnitude exceeding 6.5 on the Richter Scale recorded so far this year, the strongest blast having a magnitude of 6.9.

Police seize forged U.S. dollars

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — Police seized \$260 million in counterfeit U.S. currency during a raid on underworld hideouts near this port city on Saturday, the Italian news agency Ansa reported. It said the forged currency, all in 100 dollars bills, was discovered in an apartment in Castellammare di Stabia, just south of Naples. Two men, presumed to be members of the Camorra crime gang, were arrested and charged with counterfeiting foreign currency, it said.

Kremlin official flies to Algeria

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet delegation headed by Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze, a candidate member of the ruling Politburo, left for Algiers Saturday to attend a congress of the Afro-Asian people's solidarity organisation. The Soviet-backed grouping links East European and left-wing Third World governments and discusses aid and cooperation programmes. Mr. Shevardnadze is the local party chief in the Soviet Republic of Georgia.

'Sharing housework makes happier marriages'

WASHINGTON (AP) — American husbands and wives seem happiest if both have full-time jobs and they equally share housework and child care, a study shows. Depression is most common in the other hand, when the wife has to work to help pay the bills, but she and her husband wish she could stay home and she still does all the housework. The man in these relationships is even more likely to be depressed than his wife, the study indicates. "In adapting to the wife's employment, the central problem for husbands seems to be one of self-esteem — of getting over embarrassment, guilt or apprehension associated with the wife's employment. For wives, the central problem is getting the husbands to share the housework," said Mr. John Mirovsky, one of the authors.

Marijuana smoke damages lung

LOS ANGELES (AP) — People who smoke two or more marijuana cigarettes a day for five years suffer "significant abnormalities" in their lungs, including some associated with lung cancer, a researcher says. "There is evidence that heavy marijuana smoking is damaging the airways in a way we do not anticipate tobacco smoking would," said Dr. Donald P. Tashkin, a professor of medicine at the University of California at Los Angeles. "We would advise young people not to take up the habit of smoking marijuana," Dr. Tashkin said Friday, adding the frequent users should either quit or sharply reduce their intake.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
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CUT THE DEFENDERS' COMMUNICATIONS

East-West vulnerable. North deals.

NORTH
♠ 8764
♥ A103
♦ 10984
♣ K5

WEST **EAST**
♠ KJ52 ♠ AQ103
♥ QJ964 ♥ 872
♦ AJ ♦ Void
♣ A10 ♣ QJ9873

SOUTH
♠ 9
♥ K5
♦ KQ76532
♣ 642

The bidding:
North East South West
Pass Pass 40 Dble
Pass Pass Pass
Opening lead: Ace of ♠.

It is impossible to overstress the importance of the opening lead. Consider this hand from the qualifying round match between the United States and New Zealand from this year's World Team Championship. In the room where New Zealand sat North-South ended up in five diamonds doubled. The U.S. West led the queen of hearts, and that was that. Declarer won the king, finessed the ten and discarded a spade on the ace of hearts. He had no

problem holding his losers to one in each minor suit to make his doubled game. The auction shown is from the room where the United

States held the North-South cards. West's double of four diamonds was passed out, and it looked as if the contract was a cinch.

West led the ace of clubs and continued the suit. Declarer won on the table and tried to draw trumps. West grabbed the ace, led a spade to his partner's ace, and he was able to ruff the club return with the jack for the setting trick.

South overlooked a chance to bring home his contract. After winning the club continuation, it costs nothing to play the king, ace and ten of hearts. If East produces a heart honor, declarer ruffs and tries to draw trumps.

As the cards lie, however, East follows with a low heart. Now declarer can cut the defenders' communications by sluffing his losing spade. West wins a heart trick, but he has no way to reach his partner for a club ruff. Declarer loses only the ace of clubs and diamonds and a heart trick.

Kim, Chernenko concentrate on military co-operation

By Mark Wood
Reuters

MOSCOW — North Korean leader Kim Il-Sung held a third and final round of talks with Soviet President Konstantin Chernenko Friday which appeared to have centred on military co-operation between the two states.

The official news agency TASS said the two sides had placed "special emphasis on issues of strengthening security in the Far East and the Pacific zone."

They considered this necessary "in the light of the intensified militarist policy of the U.S.A. and its allies in that region and the growing revanchist tendencies in the policy of the ruling circles in Japan," he added.

Western diplomats said that the phrase "strengthening security" indicated that military co-operation had been discussed and could mean Moscow had agreed to

help bolster North Korea's forces.

Asian diplomats said one of Mr. Kim's chief aims on his trip to Moscow was to persuade Soviet leaders to provide him with more modern military equipment, including war planes.

Mr. Kim has held three days of talks in Moscow and was due to leave the Soviet capital by rail for Warsaw Friday.

TASS said that during the talks both sides had agreed to strengthen their economic links and step up contacts between their ruling Communist Parties.

Official reports on Mr. Kim's visit have stressed that both sides were in full agreement on what they call the threat from Japan and the United States in Asia.

But Western diplomats said there were indications that there had been disagreements on other fundamental issues. TASS report

said the third round of talks were held in a "warm and friendly atmosphere", a cooler formulation than that usually used for meetings between Mr. Chernenko and other Communist leaders.

The diplomats said it was significant that Mr. Chernenko had failed to give outright endorsement to Mr. Kim's call for talks on Korean reunification to be limited to North and South Korea and the United States.

They said this could mean Moscow had been pressing him to demand Soviet involvement as well.

Western analysts said the two sides may have also disagreed over their attitudes towards China.

North Korea has steered a neutral course between Moscow and Peking for the past two decades but there have been recent signs of a slight tilt towards China.

Mr. Chernenko criticised Pek-

ing in a speech at a dinner in honour of Mr. Kim on Wednesday, but the North Korean leader avoided any mention of China in his reply.

Diplomats said Mr. Kim was likely to have come under pressure in Moscow to place greater reliance on the Soviet Union and may have been assured a substantial increase in economic and military aid in return.

They said Moscow appeared alarmed by what it perceived as a growing military challenge from China, Japan and the U.S. in the Far East and was believed keen to pull Pyongyang into a closer alliance to counter this.

Some analysts said a photograph featured on the front pages of all Soviet dailies Friday could be a small, but significant indication that Mr. Kim had not responded to Moscow's sat-

isfaction and had irritated his hosts.

The photograph, showing both leadership delegations at talks in the Kremlin, was taken at an angle which clearly revealed a large tumorous growth on Mr. Kim's neck.

Mr. Kim always insists on being photographed from an angle which does not show the growth or else photographs which could reveal it are touched up.

Leadership pictures which appear in Soviet newspapers are frequently altered by artists before publication, and the diplomats said it was strange that they had not covered over a deformity which Mr. Kim was known to be sensitive about.

"It's a small point, but it could be an important sign that Moscow is not entirely happy with him," one commented.